

DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH

OF THE
PRESENT STATE

OF THE
ONE OF THE STATES OF AMERICA

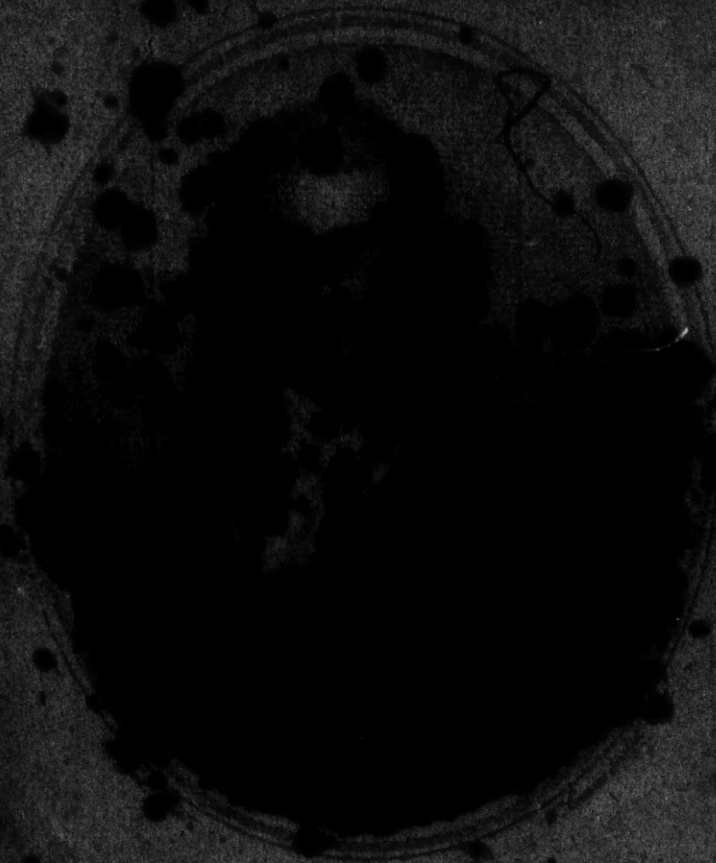
By J. A. GRAHAM, LL.D.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL IN THE SERVICE OF THE
ABOVE STATE.

London.

PRINTED AND SOLD, FOR THE AUTHOR,
BY HENRY FRY,
AT THE CICERO PRESS,
FINSBURY PLACE.

1797.



John A. Graham Esq.
Gov. of the State of Vermont, in New England.
North America near of
London.

A
DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH
OF THE
PRESENT STATE
OF



ONE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

By J. A. GRAHAM, L.L.D. *K*

LATE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL IN THE SERVICE OF THE
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INSCRIPTIONES

1871

PRESTON



BRITANNICUM
MUSEUM
PRESTON
1871

TO HIS

GRACE,

THE DUKE OF MONTROSE.

MY LORD DUKE,

HAVING the Honour of being descended from the House of MONTROSE, I know not where I can, with such propriety, venture to claim the privilege of inscribing the following Pages, as to your

GRACE. But, my Lord, this is a tribute you would never have received from me, did not the general excellence of your Character entitle you to the esteem of all good men. I despise the servile voice of adulation; but wherever unequivocal worth is to be found, it affords me the highest gratification to praise and to admire it; and most happy am I in thus joining the public voice, which so decidedly and so truly pronounces on your merits.

If, my Lord, the *Sketch* I have given of the *State of Vermont*, and of its Inhabi-

tants, can, for a single moment interest
your attention, or afford your GRACE
the slightest amusement, every purpose
of this Dedication is answered to,

MY LORD DUKE,

YOUR GRACE'S MOST OBEDIENT

AND MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

JOHN ANDREW GRAHAM.

*No. 6, Gower-Street,
Bedford-Square.*

1871
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

JOHN ADAMS

LETTER

I.

MY LORD DUKE,

IF it be true that there is "a pleasure in madness which none but madmen know;" it is a still more incontrovertible fact, that there is a pleasure in literary communication, which none can so fully enjoy, as those who, possessing the means, feel also the mental gratification of dispensing among their fellow-creatures, whatever may tend to their amusement, instruction, or profit.

Providence hath wisely implanted these seeds of knowledge in the human mind: for

though they too often shoot up into noisome and unwholesome weeds; it must be acknowledged that they more frequently produce the most useful Plants, and the most aromatic Flowers.

Of elegance of style, and correctness of diction, I make no boast. Having passed the greater part of my life in public avocations, I have had little leisure to devote my attention to literary pursuits. However, I trust the following sheets will not, on that account, be the less acceptable; as the information therein contained, has taken its birth from my own observation, and a particular acquaintance with the subject on which I have treated: and am now happy in presenting them, as a foster-child, to the candour of the kindred inhabitants of America, Great Britain, and Ireland.

Born of the same parents, speaking the same language, endowed with similar manners, habits, and dispositions, their hearts are the same; they yearn towards each other with fraternal affection: and as they are the most natural, so will they be the most faithful allies, and the

most beneficial to each other of all the nations of the earth: and whosoever would set them at variance, must be the common enemy of both. United, they may defy the power of all the world: their prosperity, their sovereignty, their independence, nay, their very existence are connected together. To America, Great Britain, and Ireland, the allegory of the *Bundle of Twigs* may with strictest propriety be applied.

They have contended, they have fought, they have bled; the quarrel is forgotten; may their wounds be never again opened:

“Felix quem faciunt pericula cautum.”

it is not the genius of this people to bear malice, they are brothers. They stretch forth their arms, and spring across the Atlantic to embrace. Not the *fraternizing bug* of France! No! but the tender, the sentimental embrace of children of one family.

America reveres the name, and is proud of the virtues of England. It is, I repeat it, their interest to coalesce; to be more closely united in friendship than ever. But in their union they

will never forget the rights of humanity, the welfare and happiness of mankind at large.

To the inhabitants of every quarter of the globe ; to every sect and description of people whatever ; America opens wide her extended arms to adopt, to protect, and to cherish them. Her unbounded realms offer to them every solid advantage, and every reasonable gratification of life.

England, indeed, possesses not so ample a domain ; but in benevolence and the arts of peace, she stands the first of nations : in war, terrible and majestic : in the moment of victory, pitying as the mother who hangs agonized over the sufferings of her dying infant. In this, she hath established to herself a glory that can never fade. Hear this, ye nations ! and emulate her fame ! Friends, Countrymen, and Kindred, may the only emulation that shall ever subsist between us, be that of excelling in whatever shall promote "peace on earth, and good-will towards men." Form your opinions of men by their works, and not by their words. But I forbear :—the world

has beheld ; history will record ; and posterity will judge with impartial justice.

Should the following pages ever find their way into other languages, it will increase my satisfaction ; as other nations will then see a Republican's sentiments of freedom secured to him by the equal laws of England : and contemplate, with astonishment, the opening scenes of grandeur and importance traced out by Providence on the immense continent of the new world : a world, on whose greatness, at a future period, must depend, in a greater or less degree, the councils, the safety, if not the fate of the rest of the globe.

I have ever been inclined to regard myself as a citizen of Great Britain as well as of America, and I am persuaded the great majority of my countrymen think in the same manner. The first of my ancestors who settled in New England, was the Rev. JOHN GRAHAM, grandson to one of the Marquisses of MONTROSE: he received his education in the University of Glasgow, and went to America in 1720. Soon after his arrival, he had an invitation from

the church of Southbury, which he accepted, and there spent about fifty years respected and beloved, bequeathing to his descendants the noblest of all possessions, *an unblemished Name*. I feel an honest glow of satisfaction whenever I reflect on the character of this most excellent man, whom my Father, his fourth son, early taught me to venerate. He left behind him fifty-seven children and grand-children, now branched out into families, almost innumerable, and inheritors, I trust, in a good degree, of his integrity and philanthropy.

ANDREW GRAHAM, my Father, was a physician, eminent in his profession, and for many years the representative of the town of Woodbury in the Legislature of Connecticut. In 1775, he was nominated one of the Committee of Safety; he thought it expedient to accept the trust, and by his exertions, he not only successfully discharged it, but protected thousands who differed from him on political subjects. In 1781, he removed me from my tutor, the Rev. Jehu Minor, of South Britain, and placed me in the office, and under the care of

EDWARD HINMAN, Esq. a lawyer of eminence; with him I continued till 1785, in which year my Father died, not leaving behind him an independency to his family, occasioned by the calamities of the war, and the depreciation of the paper money of Congress. Under these circumstances, to meliorate my fortune, I entered into the practice of my profession, and settled in Rutland, a shire town, situated on Otter Creek, in the state of Vermont. Where industry and perseverance are joined to an upright intention, I believe, it will seldom be found that we have much cause to be displeased with the world. Success, in a great degree, depends upon ourselves; and honesty and exertion will, I am convinced, generally lead us to all that we ought reasonably to hope for.

I moved forward as well as I could desire, in the different Courts of the Court of Common Pleas, till the year 1790, when I was called to the Bar at the Supreme Court of the State. I practised in this Court until June 1792, when at the Circuit Court of

the United States of America, for the district of Vermont, at Bennington, I was called to the Bar of that Court, and admitted and sworn an attorney and counsellor. In January 1794, Mr. CHITTENDEN, Captain General, Governor and Commander in chief of the State of Vermont, was pleased to honour me with the appointment of Aid-de-camp to his Excellency, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

In February 1794, the Episcopal Church of Vermont appointed me their Agent on special business to the Court of London, and to the venerable Society for propagating the gospel in foreign parts. I readily undertook this business, and the November following I left private interest and domestic concerns to serve the church of Vermont, influenced by the most sincere desire of drawing still closer the ties of friendship betwixt the two countries, as I conceived it would tend greatly to the happiness and prosperity of the British subjects in Canada, as well as of the citizens of Vermont, who are neighbours, and will, I hope, ever remain on friendly terms. I reached London in

January 1795, and though unsuccessful in my mission, I felt a conscious pleasure in having discharged my duty to the best of my abilities, and to the satisfaction of the State of Vermont.

During my stay in London, the Principals of the Royal College of Aberdeen, being informed of my arrival in England, were pleased to confer on me a Doctor's degree of the Civil and Canon Laws; and sent a diploma to London accordingly.

I have the Honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient,

and most humble Servant,

J. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER

II.

MY LORD,

ON my arrival in London, I found the metropolis like an immense sea, agitated by contending winds. I went every where, mixed with all parties, and listened with calm deliberation to their different observations and arguments. I attended the Courts of Judicature, the Houses of Lords and Commons, the theatres, taverns, coffee-houses, and debating clubs.

From the freedom I was every where a witness to, I could not but be biased, and that bias was towards the democracy of the country; the aristocracy of which I naturally viewed with a pro-

portionately jealous eye: but having attended several political lectures, at a time when the tide of popular ferment ran high, I was convinced that England enjoyed a greater portion of liberty, than would be permitted in any other nation beside.

I could not but regret, that, under the mild government of this country, there was so large a number to be found, who dared, in a variety of ways, to disseminate the seeds of sedition among the more illiterate classes of the people; thereby endeavouring to alienate their affections from those laws, which are extended to protect them in the peaceful possession of their rights and privileges. Had I heard any person in my own country have uttered half as much against the existing government of America, as I have frequently heard here, I should have thought it my duty, as a magistrate, to have committed him to the county goal, for trial, as an incendiary, and an enemy to the State.

From this circumstance my dereliction took a new turn; my doubts were dissipated; and I be-

came irrevocably determined to consider myself as an American Englishman ; at liberty to entertain, and protested in the expressing, any political creed whatever, consistently with a due regard to the welfare of society in general, and to the laws of England in particular.

The more I studied these laws, and reflected on the constitution of this happy land, the more I compared it to the mighty ocean : which, though at times agitated and opposed by contending storms, envious, as it were, of the *brilliancy of its fabrick*, would obscure its surface by the *wreck of its neighbouring shores*, disdainfully dashes back the scum and froth against the rocks and precipices that impotently would obstruct its natural current : and overcoming every difficulty, it rolls resistless on, and subsides in awful majesty into the profundity of its own importance.

Impressed with these sentiments, I determined, more zealously than ever, to devote my services to my brethren in both countries. One of the motives which brought me to London was a hope that the British Government would join with the

State of Vermont in opening a communication, by means of a canal between Lake Champlain and the River Saint Lawrence, which, instead of obliging the inhabitants of Vermont to convey their exports and imports in waggons, at a vast expence, over a large tract of country by Hudson's River (a journey that consumes half the profits of the husbandman's and manufacturer's labour and industry) would, to the great advantage of both countries, in a navigation of sixteen or eighteen miles, enable them to receive from the bosom of the Thames into Lake Champlain, the produce and manufactures of Great Britain; and to send thither, at infinitely a more reasonable rate, the superfluities of their own State, such as pot and pearl ashes, bar iron, lumber, &c. &c.

I had the honour of applying to his Grace the DUKE of PORTLAND on this subject, and of laying before him the wishes of the gentlemen of Vermont, relative to it, many of whom would, from truly patriotic motives, undertake the work at their own expence; but the pressure of more weighty affairs, no doubt, prevented his Grace

from giving that consideration to the business, which, perhaps, he otherwise would have done, but which, on a future day, he may yet be pleased to reconsider.

In the mean time I am engaged to the utmost of my power and fortune in promoting the trade of Great Britain and America, as well for the benefit of the inhabitants of both countries, as for my own particular advantage.

I have the Honour to be,

My Lord,

Your respectful and humble Servant,

J. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER

III.

MY LORD,

VERMONT is one of the United States of America, bounded on the *North* by *Canada*; on the *East* by the river *Connecticut*, which divides it from *New Hampshire*; on the *South* by *Massachusetts*; and on the *West* by *New York*.—It is about 155 miles long, and 60 broad: situated between 42° , 44° , and 45° , of *North Latitude*; and between $1^{\circ} 43'$, and $3^{\circ} 36'$ of *East Longitude* from the Meridian of *Philadelphia*; and is divided into eleven counties, to wit, *Bennington*, *Rutland*, *Windham*, *Windsor*, *Addison*, *Chittenden*, *Orange*, *Caledonia*, *Franklin*, *Essex*, and *Orleans*.

A chain of high mountains, running *North* and *South*, divides this State nearly in the centre, between the river Connecticut, and lake Champlain.


The height of the land is generally from 20 to 30 miles from the river, and about the same distance from the New York line.

The natural growth upon this mountain are hemlock, pine, spruce, and other evergreens; hence it has always a green appearance, and on this account has obtained the descriptive name of Vermont, from the French, *Verd-Mont*, *Green Mountain*.

On some high parts of this mountain, snow lies till May, and sometimes until July. The country is generally hilly, but not rocky; it is finely watered; the soil is very fertile, and there is not a better climate in the world. The inhabitants are about 120,000. The bulk of them are emigrants from Connecticut and Massachusetts. The principal original Settlers and Founders of the State were the Families of *Chittenden*.

(the present Governor) *Allen, Warner, Baker, Sunderland, Brownson, Olen, Bradley, Hawley, Galusbea, Robinson, Fay, Dewey, French, Masb, Meeds, Clark, Lyon, Oleott, Mourdocks, Johnson, Stone, Gallop, Richardson, Moray, Knolton, Safford, Walbridge, Fasset, Curtis, Bailey, Hatch, Spasford, Page, Chamberlain, and Rowley.*

The principal towns are *Bennington, Rutland, and Windsor.* The General Assembly hold their sessions alternately at Rutland and Windsor.



CONSTITUTION OF VERMONT.

HERE I beg leave to offer for your perusal, the Constitution of Vermont. It's government is of the same nature, and founded upon the same principles as the other Governments in the United States of America.

By their Constitution, formed in 1778, and revised in 1786, and in 1792, the Supreme Legislative Power is vested in a

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

of the freemen. Every town has a right to choose a representative, on the first Tuesday in September, annually. The representatives, so chosen, are to meet on the second Thursday in the succeeding October, and are styled,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT.

They have power to choose their own Officers; to sit on their own adjournments; pre-

pare bills, and enact them into laws; they may expel members, but not for causes known to their constituents antecedent to their election; impeach State criminals; grant charters of incorporation; constitute towns, boroughs, cities, and counties; in conjunction with the Council, they are annually to elect Judges of the Supreme, County, and Probate Courts; Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace; and also with the Council, may elect Major-Generals, and Brigadier-Generals, as often as there shall be occasion; they have all other powers necessary for the legislature of a free and sovereign State: but have no power to add to, alter, abolish, or infringe, any part of the Constitution.

THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE POWER

is vested in a Governor, or Lieutenant-Governor, and a Council of twelve persons, chosen by the freemen, at the same time they choose their representative. The Governor, or Lieutenant Governor of Council, are to commission all Officers; prepare such business as may appear to them necessary to lay before the General Assembly: they are to sit as Judges to hear and

determine on impeachments, taking to their assistance, *for advice only*, the Judges of the Supreme Court. They have power to grant pardons, and remit fines, in all cases whatsoever, except in treason and murder, in which they have power to grant reprieves, but not to pardon, until after the end of the next session of Assembly; and in cases of impeachment, in which there is no remission or mitigation of punishment, but by act of Legislation. They may also lay embargoes, or prohibit the exportation of any commodity, for any time not exceeding thirty days, in the recess of the House only.

THE LAWS.

That before these are enacted, they may be most maturely considered, and the inconvenience of hasty determinations, as much as possible, prevented; all bills, which originate in the Assembly, are laid before the Governor and Council for their revision and concurrence, or proposals of amendment; who return the same to the Assembly with their proposals of amendment (if any) in writing; and if the same are not agreed to by the Assembly, it is in the power of the Go-

vernor and Council, to suspend the passing of such bills, until the next session of the Legislature: but no negative is allowed to the Governor and Council.

The framers of the Constitution were aware that the Plan of government, which they had drawn up, would not be adequate to the affairs of government, when the state of the people should become different, but must necessarily vary with it: and they wisely made provision to have the whole examined and revised, at the end of every seven years. The provision they made for this purpose, was a

COUNCIL OF CENSORS,

to consist of thirteen persons, to be elected by the people every seventh year, on the last Wednesday in March; and to assemble on the first Wednesday in June. The duty assigned to them, is to inquire whether the Constitution has been preserved inviolate in every part; whether the Legislative and Executive branches of Government have performed their duty, as guardians of the people; or assumed to themselves,

or exercised other or greater powers than they are entitled to by the Constitution; whether the public taxes have been justly laid, and collected; in what manner the public monies have been disposed of; and whether the Laws have been duly executed.

Powers fully competent to the following purposes, are also committed to them:—they may send for persons, papers, and records, they have authority to pass public censures; to order impeachments; and to recommend to the Legislature the repealing such laws, as shall appear to them to have been enacted contrary to the principles of the Constitution—these powers they may exercise during the space of one year from the time of their election; and they may call a Convention to meet within two years after their sitting, if they judge it necessary.

As to the Laws, so much of the common Law of England as is not repugnant to the Constitution, or to any act of the Legislature, is adopted as Law within Vermont. And such Statute Laws, and parts of Laws of the Kingdom of

Great Britain, as were passed before the first day of October, 1760, for the explanation of the common Law, and are not repugnant to the Constitution, or some act of the Legislature, and are applicable to the circumstances of the State, are also adopted and made Law in VERMONT.

THE COURTS OF JUDICATURE

are as follow—(viz.) The Justices of the Peace in each county are annually nominated, and appointed by the General Assembly: they are of course the same persons, as the members of the Assembly from each county, with the addition of a few others. They have power to try and determine all pleas and actions of a criminal nature, where the fines and forfeitures are within the sum of *forty shillings*, and the corporal punishment shall not exceed ten stripes. They may also try and determine all pleas and actions of a civil nature, (other than actions of defamation, replevin, trespass upon the freehold, and where the title of land is concerned) where the debt, and other matter in demand, does not exceed the sum of *four pounds*: and also determine on all specialties, notes of hand, and settle accounts not exceeding

the sum of *eight pounds*. They may also bind over to be tried, by the County or Supreme Court, all criminal offenders, the enormity of whose misdemeanors surpasses their power to try. No judgment rendered by a Justice of Peace, can be reversed by writ of error ; but appeals are allowed to the next County Court, in all cases where the judgment for debt or damages, shall exceed the sum of *forty shillings*.—In each County there is also a

COUNTY COURT,

consisting of three Judges, who are also annually appointed by the Assembly. The County Courts, within their respective Counties, are to take cognizance of all criminal matters of every name and nature, (except such cases as are cognizable only in the Supreme Court, or before a Justice of the Peace) and award sentence : but any person prosecuted for a criminal offence, may appeal from the judgment of a County Court, to the next Supreme Court. All actions and causes of actions of a civil nature, (except such actions as are made cognizable solely before the Supreme Court, or Justice of the Peace) must

be originally commenced, and prosecuted to effect in a County Court.

THE SUPREME COURT

of Judicature consists of three Judges to be annually chosen by ballot; by the Governor, Council, and General Assembly, at their October Session. This Court has cognizance of all pleas of the State, criminal actions and causes, and whatsoever relates to the preservation of the Peace, and punishment of offenders; and also of civil causes or actions between party and party, and between the State and any of its subjects, whether the same be brought into said Court by appeal, writ of error, or in any other legal way whatsoever.

The Supreme Court has original exclusive jurisdiction of the crimes of adultery, polygamy, and all capital felonies; of treason, misprision of treason, counterfeiting the currencies of the State, and every species of forgery, perjury, subornation of perjury, incest, rape, defaming the civil authority of the State, and all other crimes and misdemeanors, where a fine or pe-

nalty is going to the State-treasury, or where the punishment extends, either by common or Statute Law, to the loss of life, limb, or banishment. The Supreme Court begins their

CIRCUIT

in *Bennington* County, on the first Tuesday in August; from thence it proceeds to *Rutland*, the next adjacent County, beginning the session there on the second Tuesday in August; and in this order proceeds through all the Counties in the State, beginning the session in the next County, on the succeeding Tuesdays, until they have finished the Circuit in seven weeks at *Windham* County: and it is left to the Chief Justice, to call a

SPECIAL COURT,

where the exigencies of government shall require it.

A COURT OF CHANCERY

is also constituted in the State of *Vermont*; to be holden in the several counties within the State, at the several times and places appointed by Law for holding the Supreme Court of Judicature.

The Judges of the Supreme Court, are constituted Judges or Chancellors of the Court of Chancery. They have all the powers, usually exercised by that Court in this Kingdom, and in the *New England States*.

The manner of process in this Court, is to be governed and regulated by the Judges; conforming, as near as may be, to the rules and precedents established in the Courts of Chancery, in the Kingdom of Great Britain.
—With respect to

THE MILITIA,

the military force of the State consists of all the able bodied males, from sixteen to forty-five years of age, with such exceptions as are customary in the other States. The men are required by Law to provide themselves with such arms as are used in time of war, when in actual service. They are divided into companies, regiments, brigades, and divisions. The companies elect their Captains, and Subalterns. The Captains and Subalterns appoint the Field Officers of their respective regiments. The

Brigadier Generals, and the Major Generals, are appointed by the Governor, Council, and House of Representatives. The Governor is

CAPTAIN GENERAL AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF,

and with the advice of the Council, is to arrange the whole Militia into divisions, and brigades; and may from time to time, make such alterations as he shall think fit. The whole Militia consists of about 24,000 men, who are to be reviewed, at least, once in two years.

He shall not command in person, unless advised thereto by the Council; and then only so long as they shall approve. The Lieutenant Governor, by virtue of his office, is

LIEUTENANT GENERAL

of the Forces of the State.

THE STAFF

at present, consists of one Captain General, one Lieutenant General, four Major Generals, eight

Brigadier Generals, one Adjutant General, and
one Commissary General,

In a word, the Militia of *Vermont* are a brave,
intrepid set of men—and better marksmen can-
not be produced.

I have the Honour to be,

My Lord,

Your respectful and humble Servant,

J. A. GRAHAM.





BENNINGTON COUNTY.

LETTER

IV.

BENNINGTON is the capital of the County of the same name, and is a half shire with *Manchester*: It lies East of the river Hudson, distant about thirty-six miles from the city of *Albany*, and joins upon the State of *New York*. *Bennington* has many local advantages, superior

to almost any other town in the State; its contiguity to *New City*, *Troy*, and *Albany*, the marts from whence the inhabitants may always export their produce to advantage, is of the highest consequence to them. It is situated on an eminence, commanding extensive prospects over a most delightful country, intersected by multitudes of rivulets that sportively meander through finely-cultivated fields, and ample meadows. The houses are magnificent and elegant, and though not built with that regularity that we meet with in Europe, forms perhaps, upon the whole, a more interesting picture. They are erected in general with large frames of wood, filled up with brick and mortar, so hard and durable as almost to bid defiance to Time. The soil is excellent, and raises vast supplies of wheat, Indian corn, red and white clover, and herd's grass. Butter, cheese, pork, and poultry, are every where produced in such abundance, as besides supplying the wants of the inhabitants even to profusion, enables them to export considerable quantities. The low lands are well watered by a large river, which runs through the town, and fertilizes them to such a de-

gree, that the crops of hay are truly wonderful. On this river are several mills for corn, sawing, and iron works. The noise of the axe and hammer resounds along its banks: Industry every where lifts up its chearful voice, and health, competence, independence, and content, smile around the fascinating scene.

The fruits are apples, peaches, pears, red and white plumbs, grapes, currants, and gooseberries, all excellent in their kind, and almost every sort of vegetable. The timber is red and white oak, birch, elm, walnut, chefnut, hard and soft maple, &c.

They have an excellent breed of cattle and horses; the English horses are coming much into fashion, and the greatest care is taken by the better sort of people to encourage their increase.

The business of the town is regulated and conducted in the same manner as that of other towns in the State: here they have a small Academy, and several day-schools. The Court-

house and Goal, under one roof, is a handsome building, in the centre of the town; but the Meeting house makes but a mean appearance, and is disgraceful to the place—the Rev. Mr. *Swift* is the Minister of it. The families of *Dewey, Robinson, Smith, Titchenor, Safford, Walbridge, and Fay*, are the leading people. Mr. *Moses Robinson*, was one year Governor of the State, he has since been a Senator in Congress, is an exemplary man, and professes to be a Christian; this gentleman has several *brothers* who have risen into *some* consequence, by the help of *Brother Moses*. Mr. *R. Smith* was educated at Yale College; he was bred to the Law, is an excellent character, and has pursued the practice of his profession in *Vermont*, with reputation and success; he is also a Collector of the Excise for the district of *Vermont*, under the Federal Government, and is, in every situation, and relative connection of life, the gentleman, the scholar, and the friend. Mr. *Titchenor* was educated at *New-Jersey College*, and does honour, by his abilities, and classical attainments, to that institution: to the most engaging ease, and affability of manners, is joined a heart replete

with the milk of human kindness, beneficent, good tempered, and impartial; he discharges his duty as Chief Judge of the Supreme Court, with incorruptible fidelity.

Messrs. *Safford* and *Walbridge*, are good statesmen, and belong to the Council of State; they are pious, exemplary good men, great farmers, easy of access, and endeavour to make all around them happy.

Mr. *Fay* is Adjutant General of the State, bred to the Law, a gentleman of philanthropy, hospitality, and undoubted veracity.

Mr. *Dewey* is son to the Rev. Mr. *Dewey*, Rector of *Bennington*; he is a gentleman of a strong mind, sound judgment, and consideration; is a steady supporter of order and regularity, and from his strict attention to business, has accumulated a considerable fortune. To sum up his character in a very few words, he is the friend of the widow, the fatherless, and of his fellow-creatures.

Mr. *Hafwell* has a Printing Office, and is a very able Printer, and a gentleman of great scientific knowledge.

Mr. *Moses Robinson* has a superb brick house in *Bennington*, as also Mr. *J. Robinson*. Mr. *Dewey*, and Mr. *Smith*, have very elegant wood houses; but for real taste in Architecture, Mr. *Titchenor's* wood house is the best laid out and executed, according to the size of it, of any in the County.—His chimney pieces and hearths are of a beautiful clouded marble, as highly polished as any I have seen in *London*; and to his further honour be it spoken, Mr. *Titchenor* assured me that most of these were executed by his own hands.

At *Bennington* they make pot and pearl ashes, though not in such quantities as in many other parts of the State; their exports and imports are conveyed in waggons, drawn both by oxen and horses, they go and return from market in two days.—The public road to *Albany* is exceedingly good. I have ridden from *Ben-*

nington to New-City, (a distance of thirty miles,) in three hours.

The number of inhabitants are about two thousand six hundred.

Family quarrels, what man of sensibility or honour can think of exposing? Over the battle of *Bennington*, on the 16th of August, 1777, then, let me draw a veil, with this single observation, that it contributed in no immaterial degree to the independence of *America*; that it will to the latest times be remembered with gratitude, by that country; and that to the cool and intrepid heroism of *Gen. Starks*, and *Col. Seth Warner*, and the bravery of the *Green Mountain Boys*, who so gallantly fought under them, the success of it is to be attributed.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER

V.

MY LORD,

PROCEED we on to *Pownal*, which is the South Westerly corner town (or township) of the State, bounded on the North by *Bennington*, on the South by *Williams-town*, (*Massachusetts*) on the West by the State of *New-York*, and by *Stamford*, on the East. This district is beautifully diversified with hill and dale, and though some of the land is stony, yet it yields great crops of wheat, corn, rye, oats, pease, and beans. Beef, pork, butter, and cheese, are here in vast abundance. The pasture is incomparably fine; the timber much the same as in *Bennington*. The real value of the land is from twelve shillings to four pounds sterling per acre.

Messrs. *Jewet* and *Wright*, are the political fathers of the place. At *Pownal* is a Meeting-house, and I am sorry to add, that those who frequent it are rather bigotted, excessively particular, and absolutely wedded to their own forms and ways. This disposition, I fear, is not confined to *Pownal* alone. A liberal spirit can only be diffused by knowledge, and an intercourse with the world. Poor and despicable indeed is the sentiment that excites us to regard the customs of others with scorn or contempt: if those customs, even though they may appear to us absurd, are harmless, they claim some degree of our respect; and if praise-worthy, call aloud for our imitation. I know not a passion that I should more exult to root from the heart of man, than that over-weening pride that influences narrow minds to look upon themselves as superior to such of their fellow-creatures who are not exactly of their opinion. The offspring of Pelf and Ignorance, adopted by Intolerance, reared by Superstition, and fostered by Arrogance and Self-conceit, this abhorred Imp was let loose to destroy Nature's fairest works, and corrode her choicest blessings; Piety

beholds its bloated form with a sigh, Chearfulness flies affrighted from its presence, and Charity pines and languishes neglected within the verge of its gloomy abode.—Whip, whip me such a monster from the face of the earth!

A stranger, in passing through *Pownal*, would scarcely be led to suppose there were thirty families in it, notwithstanding which there are above two thousand souls. At the beat of a drum, or on the town-meeting days, they pour forth from their little huts in swarms; they are industrious, frugal, and enterprising, are good gunners, and most expert cudgel players. The complexion of the people is rather swarthy.

Shaftesbury, which we next visit, is a rich flourishing town, adjoining *Bennington*, and the State of *New-York*; the land is admirable for raising every kind of grain, pulse, and vegetable. It also produces the finest apples, peaches, pears, plumbs, cherries, and quinces in the whole State. Nor is their beef, mutton, pork, butter, and cheese, inferior either

in quantity, or quality, to their other productions. They export their superfluities to *New-City*, and *Troy*, at as cheap a rate as the inhabitants of *Bennington*. Pot and pearl ashes afford great assistance in making remittances for their imports; there is scarce a town in *Vermont* that exports more of these articles. I have known six thousand barrels sent off out of the State in one season, since the war.

The inhabitants are rich farmers, principally emigrants from *Rhode-Island*. There is no public building, except the Meeting-house, which is handsome and commodious. The Rev. Mr. *Blood* is the Minister, and an able Sandimonian preacher.

The Hon. Mr. *Olin*, is, without exception, one of the firmest supporters of the State, and a political Star of the first magnitude: he possesses great natural talents, an intuitive knowledge of mankind, and is at once nobly free in his opinions, and decided in his conduct. On religious subjects, his ideas are as

liberal as his soul is expanded, soaring above the mean fopperies of priestcraft, and the Fanaticism of *New-England*: he is in the most comprehensive sense of the word—a Christian; and to the very ardent desire of doing good, unites the strongest energy of character, the most un sullied honour; and a veracity on all he utters impresses the seal of truth. Mr. Olin, for many years, discharged the important duties of Speaker of the House of the General Assembly: he is now one of the Council of State, and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in the County of *Bennington*.

Mr. *Gallusbea* is also one of the Council of State; he is mild, benevolent, of a philosophic turn of mind, and of a clear comprehensive understanding. Though not a dealer in many words, he gives his reasons with openness and candor, and always makes them plain to the meanest capacity. He despises party intrigues, and the little dirty duplicities of faction, and at the same time contrives to avoid censure. That such a man should be

esteemed and beloved by all who know him, is but the just tribute due to such exalted worth!

Shaftesbury is finely watered, and has several corn and saw mills, they have vast quantities of white marble here, of a quality equal to any I have seen in Europe, though, at present, they have not the art of polishing it so highly. They use it for their fire places, tomb stones, and the under pinning of their houses.

The value of land in *Shaftesbury* is from twenty shillings to thirty pounds, per acre. The number of its inhabitants about two thousand, their complexion resemble those of *Pownal*.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER

VI.

MY LORD,

ARLINGTON lies on the stream called the Roaring-Branch. In this place the Governor formerly resided; it is a very broken township, yet there is some good land, though in general it is very stony. The stream called the Roaring-Branch justly deserves that appellation. With a noise terrible as the thunder in the New World, it madly pours its proud torrents over enormous crags, and at the breaking up of the winter, the vast shoals of ice, borne down by the mountain floods, fiercely sweep along, and carrying devastation with them, destroy the bridges, none of which have yet been constructed of a strength sufficiently able to resist such rude assailants.

“ Red came the river down, and loud and oft
“ The angry spirit of the water shriek'd.”

The inhabitants of *Arlington* amount to about One Thousand, mostly Protestants. The first Episcopal Church built in the State was erected here, and here also the Council of Old Settlers was for some time held. *Arlington* has likewise been noted for being the place where the Land-Jobbers of *New-York* were seized, and most deservedly chastized for their rapacity and insolence. The people are fond of commutation and bartering, but are almost continually changing and shifting their residence. The value of the land is from six shillings to three pounds per acre.

Sunderland, which lies between *Arlington* and *Manchester*, is seated in a paradise, where Nature, with a profuse and liberal hand, has poured out every beauty, as well as blessing, that can fascinate the eye, or gladden the heart of man. The lands around it, may, with propriety, be styled the Tempé of *Bennington* County: through a part of them, situated between two mountains, runs a noble river, the waters of which, overflowing the inter-vales, (especially at the spring of

the year, when the snow dissolves on the mountains,) leaves such a richness on the soil as no other manure can equal. The crops, as may consequently be supposed, are prodigious.

The uplands also produce large crops of hay, wheat, Indian corn, hemp, and flax. Which ever way you turn, plenty surrounds you; and the finest situations imagination can form an idea of, present themselves for building; situations, which the quick perception of elegance and taste will, no doubt, hereafter seize upon and adorn with fabricks worthy of their grandeur. Yes, on those majestic hills, within the bosoms of ever-verdant woods, what palaces, and what delightful villas are destined to rise—the works of genius and of art have long beamed their influence on every other quarter of the globe; with no reluctant steps they now turn towards America—towards a people, every day more and more anxious to bid them welcome; who can offer to their study the most sublime works of an Omnipotent Creator, and amongst whom they must eventually establish their em-

pire. Every event in Europe tends to this great purpose, *and lasting peace and amity with England will, above all other circumstances, assist to secure it,*

The religion of *Sunderland* is Presbyterianism, they have a good meeting house, attend to order and regularity, and are industrious and frugal. The families of *Brownson* and *Bradley* are the leading people. Capt. *R. Bradley* lately discovered a lead mine upon his farm, which, from every appearance, promises to be highly productive. Some of the ore from this mine I brought with me at his request to London, where, since my arrival, it has been analyzed by *Dr. Johnson*, and other chemical gentlemen; and the result has been, their declaring to me that the ore produced eighty-two per cent. of fine lead, and about three of silver. This vein lies about two feet from the surface, and is about fourteen inches in circumference, and the rocks and ground where it is opened bear a strong resemblance to a mine near *Penzance*, in *Cornwall*, which I visited in the year 1795. The number of inhabitants in *Sunderland* do not amount to more than six hundred. The value

of the land is from two to thirty pounds per acre. Of Gen. *Brownson*, who lives here, I shall just observe, that he was a violent partisan in the late war; and that as a proof of his valiant conduct, he now carries in his body eighteen different pieces of lead, which he received during that fatal contest: he is a man of business, enjoys perfect health, and feels no sort of inconvenience in consequence of his wounds. I have often heard him speak of the matter with manly coolness, "I fought" said he, "in what I believed to be a just cause, I assisted my brave fellow-citizens to secure the Freedom of my Country, I lived to obtain my purpose, and I am happy."

Stamford, Readsbrough, Woodford, Scarsburgh, Glastonbury, Somerset, Stratton, Windball, Landgrave, and Bromley, are all mountain towns. In the quality of the land there is little difference through these districts. They are all incorporated, and send Members to the General Assembly, except *Stratton* and *Landgrave*. The inhabitants devote themselves principally to the breeding and increase of cattle, and send more to foreign markets than they do of any other pro-

duce, their land in general being much better for grazing than for grain. The timber is hemlock, pine, spruce, maple, elm, birch, and black and white oak. This country abounds in deer, foxes, wolves, bears, rabbits, &c. &c. and affords a constant source of pleasure as well as emolument to the hunter. The lands are covered with snow one half of the year. I recollect making an excursion to *Stratton*, on business, in the last week of October, 1790, when the snow was mid-leg deep: on the seventeenth of the May following I had again occasion to visit the same town, at which time I found the snow still lying in many places, in large banks, though in general it was gone off from the face of the country. There are a number of good farms in each of these towns, but in a state of nature, the lands are very hard to clear, the inhabitants are industrious, brave, generous, and hospitable, and when a stranger goes amongst them, they think themselves more than repaid by the pleasure of entertaining him, and the highest gratification they can receive is his promise of visiting them again. Their roads and bridges leading to the public post roads are all bad; they have a num-

ber of mills for sawing their timber, but at present are indebted to their neighbours for grinding their corn. The people are exceedingly stout and robust, and so inured to hardships from the severity of the climate, that they will undergo what a South-Briton would hardly give credit to.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.



LETTER

VII.

MY LORD,

THROUGH scenes of new beauty proceed we now to *Manchester*, which joins on *Sunderland*, and lies on very high ground, with the gigantic form of the *East Mountain*, sublimely towering between it and *Stratton*, another stupendous mountain, though not quite so high as the former, which divides it from *Sandgate*. This town has a deep rich soil, and produces almost all kinds of grain, large crops of hay, and has much good meadow and pasture land. The orchards with which this County is every where planted, give it a most delightful appearance; and its romantic scenery is still further heightened by the innumerable springs and rivulets,

that descend from the mountains, and wind amongst the lower grounds and vallies, affording never-failing supplies of water to the inhabitants, and meandering through their fields, as fancy or convenience directs their course. The main street of *Manchester* is about one mile in length, and makes a handsome appearance; the houses are built of wood, and are elegant and commodious, and amongst the best, are those of Doctor *Allis*, and Mr. *Armsbury*.

This town is a half shire with *Bennington*, they have no public buildings, except their Meeting-houses: of these there are two; the largest stands in the centre of the main street, in which the Courts of Justice hold their sessions; the other is situated about a mile from the main street. Their religion is *Epicopacy*, and *Presbytery*. The families of *Mash*, *French*, and *Meed*, were the first settlers. The great mills in this town belong to Mr. *Meed*. The winter here is very severe, the snow falls deep, and from the constant blowing of the wind, it drifts so much, that it frequently renders travelling both inconvenient and dangerous. The great

road from the State of *Massachusetts*, *Connecticut*, and *New-York*, to the northern parts of the State of *Vermont*, on the West side of the *Green Mountain* passes through *Manchester*. At the upper end of the main street there are two great roads: that on the right, going to the North, leads to *Rutland* upon the right of *Dorset* and *Danby Mountains*; the one on the left conducts you by *Pawlet* and *Fair Haven* to *Lake Champlain*.

Manchester is thirty six miles from *Rutland*, and twenty-four from *Bennington*. The best hotel in the place is kept by Doctor *Allis*; and this, however odd it may sound to a European ear, is the custom nearly all over *New England*, where the most respectable part of the Community are the inn-keepers, and where it not unfrequently happens that the landlords are men of erudition, independent fortunes, and magistrates.

There are two young gentlemen at *Manchester*, Mr. *Smith* and Mr. *Squires*, whose abilities, it appears to me, must raise them

high in the service of their Country. Mr. *Squires* was educated at *Yale College*, he is a good judge of law, a candid fair speaker, and is Secretary to the Governor and Council, an office which he discharges with justice to his fellow-citizens, and honour to himself.

In Summer there is such an equal serenity of weather, at *Manchester*, that one has scarce the power of wishing for a change: it is neither too hot nor cold; and even in *July* and *August*, which are here the most sultry months in the year, the kind breezes, which whisper among the trees, and puffs between the mountains, refresh the weary traveller, and render this place, if I may venture to use such an expression, the habitation of the Zephyrs.

The value of land is from two guineas to thirty guineas, per acre.

The number of inhabitants are about fourteen hundred. On their holidays, they run horses, go on shooting parties, and play at bowls. They have several schools for educat-

ing their: children and, added to all their other advantages, a large stream runs through the town, from whence, even at their very doors, they are supplied with vast quantities of salmon trout, and almost every kind of small fish.

Dorset joins *Manchester*, and has some good land, though in general it is stony. The best cultivated farms in it belong to Col. *Masb* and Mr. *Shumway*, who are the leading characters of the district.

The principal grain raised in this town is rye and Indian corn—the land also produces excellent flax, and the meadows excessive crops of hay and good pasture. The face of the country is beautifully diversified with hills and vallies; it has a mountain exceedingly high, the top of which, for at least three parts of the year, is enveloped in clouds: it is not unfrequent to see its top rising a great height above them, and the rain descending in cataracts down their sides with almost the velocity of the falls of *Niagara*, while the sun beams shoot their brightest rays on the adjacent fields and neighbourhood.

In the year 1780, a ponderous rock, about twenty tons weight, broke off from this mountain, and forced its way near four hundred yards down a precipice; the firmest-rooted trees, the most enormous crags, bowed submissive, and when it reached the bottom, so irresistible was its force, that it buried itself about fifteen feet under the earth. The place where it sunk is a small flat piece of low land which receives the waters of *Dorset*, *Danby*, and the *East Mountain*: here they divide; one part takes its course to the North, and is the head of *Otter-Creek*; the other part assumes a South Westerly direction through *Manchester*, *Sunderland*, and *Arlington*, and from thence into the State of *New-York*.

The inhabitants of *Dorset* are very industrious: they enclose their land with strong fences of stone walls and timber; yet they are terribly annoyed by the wolves, which pour down from the mountains and often destroy whole flocks in a single night. This makes the breeding of sheep extremely hazardous; however, they are amply compensated in another respect, by the

prodigious quantities of honey they take every year, one farmer often procuring five hundred weight in a season. They also raise immense numbers of geese, turkies, ducks, and fowls, and have salmon trout in as great abundance as the people of *Manchester*.

They have a Dissenting Meeting-house, but are much divided in their religious tenets. They have three Schools.—The number of inhabitants is about eleven hundred, and the value of land from three shillings to twenty pounds per acre.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER

VIII.

MY LORD,

SANDGATE lies adjoining, on the West, the State of *New-York*, and East, on *Manchester*. The situation of this town is very retired, being almost entirely surrounded by mountains, finely timbered with maple, birch, oak, sassafras, box-wood, elm, and hiccory. The land is good for wheat, Indian corn, and grazing.

They have a *Presbyterian* Meeting-house at *Sandgate*, and the greatest part of the inhabitants are of that persuasion. They emigrated principally from *Woodbury* in *Connecticut*. In the last three years, this town has made vast improve-

ments. The making of sugar from the sap of the maple tree, and of pot and pearl ashes, has afforded them great assistance, at the same time that it tended very much to clear their lands. The method they adopt for the latter purpose, in order to prepare them for a crop, is, to cut down their timber, about two feet from the ground, then chop it in pieces, and place it in heaps at a proper season, when they set fire to them—after this they collect the ashes, make them into salts of lees, and pot and pearl ashes:—these ashes amply pay them for the clearing of the land, which they then harrow over, sow their wheat, or plant their Indian corn, without any further cultivation; and the produce of wheat is generally from thirty to forty bushels per acre, and in those parts planted with Indian corn, the profit is seldom inferior in proportion.

Thus the labourer gets his grounds cleared without any expence, and with little trouble, and his first harvest seldom fails of yielding him double the original cost of the whole land so cultivated.

Every man is his own landlord, for they all hold their domains in Fee-simple, not subject to any vassalage or feudatory.—They have a great many mills in this place, and are very industrious and enterprising.—The families of *Hurd* and *Bristol*, are the most leading among them.

The value of land is from three shillings to ten pounds per acre.—The number of souls is short of one thousand.

I have the honour to be, &c, &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.



LETTER

IX.

MY LORD,

RUPERT is the North-West corner town of the county of *Bennington*. It joins West on the State of *New-York*, East on *Dorset*, North on *Pawlet*, and South on *Sandgate*. Annexed to *Rupert* is much good land, and a considerable quantity of flat and handsome intervals; it likewise has hilly and mountain lands.

• This town, like the neighbouring ones, is finely watered, and has plenty of small fish. It is excellently timbered, and its very improved grounds produce large crops of hay and grain. The inhabitants are good husbandmen, and

keep their farms, barns, and stalls in the best order, and in a manner that proves Industry loves to reside amongst them. I do not know any thing more creditable to a country than that neatness, which without doors as well as within, is a sure sign of chearfulness, content, and plenty; for I believe it is generally found that they go hand in hand, and that the people (in whatever country) who assiduously cultivate the protection of the household and rural deities, possess at the same time, liberal and generous sentiments; while disorder and filth, as assuredly characterise sloth and a groveling meanness of intellect.

At *Rupert* they have vast quantities of beef, pork, butter, and cheese, and almost all kinds of grain in equal abundance.

Their religion is *Episcopacy* and *Presbytery*. They have a Meeting-house, but no settled Minister; and are indebted, as well as some of their neighbours, to itinerant preachers who visit them. They have schools for instructing their youth. The value of land is from six shillings

to twenty pounds per acre.—The number of souls is about twelve hundred—frank, open, and hospitable in their manners, particularly to strangers, which to do them bare justice, is, I must say, in general, the leading feature in the character of the *Vermonters*.

The families of *Curtis* and *Smith* were amongst the first settlers, and still retain their original respectability.



RUTLAND COUNTY,

LETTER

X.

MY LORD,

RUTLAND is a shire town, and capital of the County of the same name: it lies on *Otter Creek*, between *Killington* and *Ira Mountains*: it is distant from *Bennington* about sixty miles, and is divided into two parishes, called *East* and *West Rutland*. On the East side is the main street, three miles in length, the centre of which, for near a mile, lies high, freight, and level, and much resembles *Dartford*.

In the centre is a square, containing about five English acres, known by the name of *Federal-Square* (which name I had the honour to give it); in front of this, on the East side, stands a new Court-House, built of wood, by no means an ornament to the place, owing to the bad taste, and want of judgment in architecture of the Committee appointed to lay out the money, which was raised by voluntary contribution, for the purpose of erecting this building. In this are held the sessions of the General Assembly (established here and at *Windfor* alternately), the District Court under the *Federal Government*, the Supreme Court of the State, the Courts of Common Pleas, and the Court of Probate for the district of *Rutland*. The Goal stands about one hundred rods South of *Federal Square*, on the West side of the main street; it is a good building and answers every purpose for which it was designed. About half a mile North of the Court House, is a neat Church. On each side the Square, and main street, are built some handsome and elegant houses; particularly on the East side, are several which draw the attention of all travellers—

the largest of these was intended for the residence of the Bishop of *Vermont*.

The upland is filled with lime-stone, the low lands abound with clay. The intervale lands on the *Creek* are of a deep rich soil, and produce excessive crops of hay, and Indian corn; but, unfortunately for the husbandman, the Indian corn is often cut off by the frost. The uplands produce wheat, rye, oats, barley, beans, peas, hemp, and flax. About half a mile from the Court-House, in the main street, a *Silver Mine* has lately been discovered, said to be of great value; but for the truth of this I cannot pretend to be answerable; though beyond a doubt there is a *Copper Mine* in the vicinity; and there are great quantities of iron ore near *Rutland*. There are two great falls of water here, known by the names of *Mides's* and *Sotberland's* Falls, on each of which are corn and saw mills. Mr. *Osgood*, in the year 1794, erected, on Otter Creek, the best corn mills in the County. Here also is a Printing Office, an Oil Mill, a Hat Manufactory, a large Brewery, and a Manufactory of Nails. The water is conveyed from

the mountains to the town in wooden pipes, laid about two feet under ground. Every material for building, except glass and paint, are made here. The principal timber is pine, maple, hemlock, and birch. Pot and pearl ash are made in great abundance. The wolf and bear often descend from the East mountains, and do much damage, destroying the sheep and corn. The value of land is from twenty shillings to sixty pounds an acre. The number of inhabitants about sixteen hundred, emigrated from *England, Ireland, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and the State of New York.*

Doctor *Williams*, Mr. *Mattocks*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Buell*, Mr. *Bell*, Mr. *Osgood*, Messrs. *Chipmans*, Messrs. *Williams*, are the leading people of the town.

Of *Samuel Williams*, L. L. D. Member of the Meteorological Society, in *Germany*, of the Philosophical Society in *Philadelphia*, and of the Academy of Arts and Sciences in *Massachusetts*, it may with propriety be said, that he is the

most enlightened man in the State in every branch of Philosophy and Polite Learning; and it is doing him no more than justice to say, there are very few in the United States possessed of greater abilities, or more extensive information: added to which, he is a most excellent orator, and always speaks in a manner best adapted to the understanding and capacity of those whom he addresses. In the year 1794 the Doctor wrote and published the Natural History of Vermont, executed much to his honour, and to the great satisfaction of all Naturalists. In politeness, ease, and elegance of manners, Doctor *Williams* is not inferior to the most polished European Gentleman.

Mr. *N. Chipman* is one of the first Law characters in the State, he has been District Judge, and Chief Judge of the Supreme Court. Mr. *Darius Chipman* is a good lawyer, assiduous and persevering in his profession, a gentleman of wit and humour, and a most agreeable companion.

Mr. *Mattocks* is Treasurer of the State, which

office he discharges to the universal satisfaction of the people.

Mr. *Smith* was educated at the University of *Connecticut*, and was bred to the Law; he is a good scholar, conversant in special pleadings, and is now a representative from the State, in Congress; his manners are mild, modest, and agreeable.

Mr. *Buell* is a practitioner at the Bar, and much merit is due to him for his ambition and perseverance in the objects of his pursuit, the more so perhaps for his devoting himself to a laborious profession, while nature has endowed him with great original talents for Poetry, the fascinating charms of which few minds have sufficient resolution to withstand.

Mr. *Bell* is High Sheriff of the County, a gentleman of the strictest honour and veracity, has a tenacious memory, and I can with propriety declare he is better informed in point of the local business, and the true situation of individuals, in the different Counties, than any person in the Commonwealth.

Mr. *Stephen Williams* is one of the select men of the town, and claims my particular notice and attention; with him for nine years past I have had the honour to be on the most friendly terms of intimacy. The hospitality of his disposition towards strangers would alone be sufficient to endear him to all who know him; but the same generous turn of mind leads him to far nobler exertions of benevolence—to cheer the broken heart, to wipe the tear from the pale cheek of poverty, and to bid the friendless widow and orphan look up and smile! These are the actions that crown his days, and give to his temper that sweet serenity which only goodness can bestow! To those whose hearts resemble Mr. *Williams's*, it would be unnecessary to say, that if in his power, he would literally fulfil that divine precept of the Gospel, “*Not to let his left hand know what his right hand did,*” but take what care he will to conceal them, his paths are traced, for his footsteps are known, (as by an irresistible impulse), to be drawn towards the abode of affliction. The sacred deeds of his charity, which have come within the ken of my knowledge, are numberless. Mr. *Samuel Williams* is one

of the Council of State, and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. *Osgood* is a Civil Magistrate, and Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas.

On the West side of the town, the farmers are better husbandmen than those on the East, and raise the best wheat, butter, and cheese; great quantities of wheat they send off to foreign markets. In this place also is a handsome Meeting-house, of which the Rev. Mr. *Haynes*, an African, (from the State of *Connecticut*), is the Minister. And here let me pause to pay a tribute to Nature and Humanity. Violated, alas! how cruelly, how often, in that unhappy race who are of this excellent Clergyman's colour, and who are supposed by some (Grant, Oh Gracious Heaven, that the number may daily decrease!) scarce to possess faculties above the "brutes that perish." But let me ask, when at the Great Day, the secrets of all hearts shall be laid open, whether Mr. *Haynes's* colour will be objected to by that Almighty Power, who took him from the dust of the earth and made him *man*? Who gave him the *form*, the *soul*, the *affections*, the

feelings of a man? Will his being a negro be *then* objected to him, when his *life* is found to have been conformable to his *preaching*? When he is known to have been the disinterested friend of mankind, to have been assiduously employed, like the good Samaritan, in pouring balm into the wounds of the unhappy?—Oh! Great God! what will then be *Thy* judgment, *Thy* sentence? Wilt *Thou* regard the *shade* of his complexion, (if indeed there be any difference in the shades that distinguish the human race), or the *beauty* of his mind? Poor suffering Sons of one common Parent, may your task-masters regard ye as brothers; may their kindness draw forth all yours, and may ye so live, as hereafter, in common with the worthy Pastor I have been describing, to hear those blessed sounds pronounced in your favour. “*Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord.*”

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM,

LETTER

XI.

MY LORD,

CLARENDON, *Wallingford*, *Harwich*, and *Danby*, lie on *Otter Creek*, yet have a great share of high, hilly land. *Clarendon* joins *Rutland* on the South, it is far the best township, and has the least waste land of any place in the whole State. There are farmers who cut from two hundred to five hundred tons of hay in a season. Butter and cheese are made in great profusion. They raise but little wheat. In point of population they are superior to any in the County. Their religion is a medley of almost every denomination under heaven. Their complexion is more uniform, and resembles the people of *Shaftsbury*.

Doctor *Hodges*, Messrs. *Cooper* and *Parker* are leading members of the Community.

Of Doctor *Hodges*, I beg leave to observe that I have been in habits of intimacy with him for the last eight years, and with him have transacted many matters of weight and importance: he possesses one of the greatest estates in the country. He has a most excellent understanding; in every negotiation he undertakes is subtle and clever; yet he possesses a tender heart, rendered still more susceptible by calamity, for he is "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:"—to the poor and needy he is a steady friend.—Here I shall rest, and (drawing a veil over some unhappy transactions in which I was but too much affected,) pass on to the description of a Cave in the West mountains, which I cannot better acquit myself of, than by adopting the words of my much respected friend, Doctor *Williams*.—

"The mouth of this cave is not more than two feet and a half in diameter; in its descent the passage makes an angle with the horizon

of thirty-five or forty degrees; but continues of nearly the same diameter through the whole length, which is thirty-one feet and a half: at that distance from the mouth, it opens into a spacious room, twenty feet long, twelve and a half wide, and eighteen or twenty high: every part of the floor, roof, and sides of this room, appear to be solid rock, but very rough, and irregular. Water is continually percolating through the top of this "fretted vault," and has formed stalactites of various forms, many of which are conical, and some have the appearance of massive columns. At the North part of this room there is another aperture of about forty inches diameter, very rough and uneven: this aperture is the beginning of another passage through the internal parts of the solid rock; the direction of this passage is oblique, and full of stops, or notches, and its length about twenty-four feet. Descending through this aperture, another spacious room opens to view: the dimensions of this apartment are twenty feet in width, thirty in length, and twenty in height. In the spring of the year, the whole of this lower room is *full* of water, and at all other seasons

water is to be found in the *lower parts* of it. No animal has been found to live in this cave, and it evidently appears to be the production of nature, untouched by the hand of man."

The above cave, from its retired situation, being, as it were, "for whispering lovers made," is almost as famous as that wherein *Dido* and *Aeneas* met of old.

Danby is next to *Clarendon*, in population and riches—it is principally settled with *Friends*, a sect commonly called *Quakers*, and well indeed do they merit the endearing appellation, by which they are in this place known, as they are a bright example to the neighbouring towns: and I doubt not, my Lord, you will agree with me in this opinion, when I assure you, they scarce ever employ lawyers, sheriffs, constables, nor, those abhorred pests of society, *Pettyfoggers*. No! they mind their own business, without impertinently or officiously prying into the affairs of others; they pay their own debts without the aid of court adjudications; live together in harmony and peace,

while oeconomy and industry have made them independent.

Mr. *Rogers* is their political father, and Representative to the General Assembly.

Having been personally, and long acquainted with great numbers of families of this sect of *Friends*, both in the cities of *New-York*, and *Philadelphia*, as well as with a majority of those in the five *New-England* States; in conscience, I feel it a duty incumbent on me to declare, there is not a society of people so industrious, quiet, peaceable, punctual, and exemplary in the whole *seven States*, as that of the *Friends*.

Wallingford is noted for its iron founderies and forges. Their religion, as also that of *Harwich*, is Puritanical. The number of inhabitants is about three thousand six hundred.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER

XII.

MY LORD,

TINMOUTH, *Pawlet*, *Wells*, *Middleton*, *Poultney*, *Ira*, and *Castleton*, are all well settled, except *Ira*, which is a mere mountain. *Pawlet* is the most populous and flourishing. Each of these towns has a church: their religion is *Presbytery* and *Episcopacy*. The lands in these towns are very productive of all sorts of grain for the food of man, and the fodder of cattle, although there is considerable waste land. *Tinmouth* has two iron founderies, and a furnace, at which they cast all kinds of hollow ware.

Castleton, *Wells*, and *Tinmouth*, have each a small lake of water, that in *Wells* is much the

largest. These lakes prove very detrimental to the inhabitants, (notwithstanding they supply them with great quantities of fish) for they are, at different seasons of the year, seized, and often cut off, with the fever-ague; and experience has proved that the primary cause of this destructive disease originates from the stagnated waters of these lakes; for when that at *Castleton* has been drained, (as has sometimes been the case,) they have never been scourged with the pestilence; but as soon as they shut up the outlet of the water, it directly produces the fever again. Lands in *Tinnmouth*, for the last three years, have depreciated much in their value, in consequence of the raging of the fever, and until some method shall be found of effectually draining these stagnant pools, the adjoining country must severely suffer.

Messrs. *Porter* and *Clark*, are characters of great respectability in this place; Mr. *Porter* was, for a considerable time, one of the Council of State.

Mr. *Clark* is Judge of Probate for the district of *Rutland*, Auditor-General of Accounts

for the State; and is Aid-de-camp to his Excellency the Commander in Chief: he is the gentleman, the companion, and the friend.

Poultney lies on a beautiful plain, and has many delightful situations for building. *Castleton*, likewise, in the main street, is very handsome, and through it runs the main road from *Rutland* to *Skeenesborough*. Here Mr. *Arwin* has large forges and iron founderies. Messrs. *Clark*, *Cogswell*, *Lee*, and *Moulton*, are the principal leading characters: the three former were officers in the *American* war, and each of them profess to be great disciplinarians.

Mr. *Burnham* of *Middleton*, possesses large iron founderies and forges. This gentleman was one of the first practising lawyers in the State; but of late years he has wholly declined the profession: he is a man of real abilities, and great scientific knowledge.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER

XIII.

MY LORD,

FAIRHAVEN joins on *Skeenesborough*, and is the most flourishing manufacturing town in the State; it owes its consequence to its founder, Colonel *Lyon*, whose enterprize and perseverance in promoting and carrying on manufactories has been of infinite utility to the Public, to the gratitude of which he has the strongest claims. He has erected a furnace for casting all kinds of hollow iron ware, and two forges; a flitting mill for the making of nail rods, a paper-mill, a printing press, and corn and saw-mills. It is a curious fact, that Colonel *Lyon* has executed a good deal of printing at his Office, on paper manufactured by himself of the bark of the

bass-wood tree, and which is found to answer every purpose for common printing. He has held some of the first offices of the State, and no man in it can be more qualified to do so, as his knowledge of the finances and situation of the country is scarcely to be equalled; nor does his integrity ever suffer him to lose sight of the real good of the people. His friendship and generosity are as great as his ambition. His passions and all his pursuits flow from the noblest feelings of the heart; they are all exerted for the benefit of mankind, and not only endear him to my esteem, but secure to him the respect and affection of all who are happy in his acquaintance, or who have a knowledge of his character.

Messrs. *Smith* and *Safford* are also leading people in *Fairhaven*.

The land, when cultivated, produces excessive crops of grain, hay, &c. It is in general well timbered, principally with pine, hemlock, and maple. Some of the pines are of the enormous dimensions of six feet in diameter.

Benson and *Orwell* adjoin on *Lake Champlain*, and have some very good land, although it is in general too full of clay. *Orwell* is near *Ticonderoga*. In this town is the well-known place called *Mount Independence*.

Mr. *Clark* has a salt spring here, the waters of which make *Epsom* salts of a very superior quality. Eight quarts of this water when boiled down, produce one pound of salts.

These towns on the Lake abound with iron ore, and they have a number of iron founderies and forges amongst them. The great road from *Fairhaven* to the Northern part of the State, and to *Canada*, leads through the above places; and in winter, the travelling in sledges, drawn by horses, is both convenient and expeditious.

Hobarton lies North of *Castleton* and East of *Benson*, and has a large pond or lake of water, which discharges itself into *Castleton*, and which, most unfortunately for the inhabitants, has the

same pernicious effect with the other stagnant pools already described, and too frequently produces the fever-ague.

Here was fought a very bloody battle during the war, in which the Americans were defeated, with almost the entire loss of the regiment commanded by the brave Colonel *Warner*, owing, as it is said, to the conduct of General *St. Clair*, who is so well known for his *innumerable retreats*, and for being *always* defeated.

Hobarton is good for raising grain, and for fishing and fowling.

Sudbury, *Brandon*, and *Pitsford*, lie on Otter Creek, and are situated in a most excellent soil, though I think *Pitsford* has the preference. *Brandon* has iron-founderies and forges, at which they make good bar iron. The religion of these towns is *Presbyterianism*. *Pitsford* (which is a flourishing place) has a good Church.

The value of land is from six shillings to forty pounds per acre.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.



LETTER

XIV.

MY LORD,

SHREWSBURY, *Mount Holly*, *Killington*, *Midway*, *Chittenden*, *Philadelphia*, and *Pitsfield*, are mountain towns, and are the East bounds of *Rutland County*. In the quality of these lands there is but little difference, except *Killington*, which is principally mountain, and designed by nature more for the habitation of beasts of prey, than for the abode of man. *Killington Peak* is said to be the highest land of any in the Green Mountain; the top resembles a sugar loaf, and altogether it has an appearance of elegance and grandeur, beyond any powers I am master of, to describe; nor do I conceive

it possible for any description to convey an adequate idea of its beauty, grandeur, and magnificence,

The great road from *Rutland* to *Windsor*, and to *Boston*, is through *Shrewsbury*, and there is no other road over the Green Mountain, that equals it in goodness.

Chittenden abounds with whole mountains of iron ore. Mr. *Keith*, (late of *Boston*), has erected a large furnace for casting all kinds of hollow iron ware. This gentleman informed me, in the year 1795, that from the second blast of this furnace, his *net proceeds* was ten thousand dollars. Mr. *Keith* was bred to the law; he is a man of real scientific knowledge, and a most elegant Poet, though his extreme modesty has not yet suffered him to publish any of his productions. On one of the most important Court Martials during the American war, Mr. *Keith* was appointed Judge Advocate, which duty he discharged with universal applause and honour. He was likewise late Adjutant-General

of the State of *Massachusetts*. In his manners Mr. *Keith* is no ways inferior to the polite European gentleman. Of his much longer residence at *Chittenden*, I have my doubts, and am of opinion that he will return and spend his days in the polished Society of *Boston*; nor is it much to be wondered at, that a man formed to diffuse chearfulness and pleasure wherever he appears, should prefer, to his present situation, a town so justly celebrated for its elegance, and the attractions it holds out to foreigners, and every rank and description of people.

The number of inhabitants in the towns, mentioned in the begining of this letter, are about five thousand six hundred.

The Moose, Bear, Fox, and Porcupine, are, more or less, found by the hunters in these districts.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER

XV.

MY LORD,

BEFORE I proceed further, I cannot prevail on myself to refrain from mentioning that extraordinary creature the *Beaver*, which is still to be found in the neighbourhood of many of the towns I have spoken of; where they have formed their ponds and dams, built their cities, and, with wisdom, almost human, fixed their astonishing republics: but in describing this wonderful animal, I shall again have recourse to the learned Doctor *Williams*, conscious of my own inability to give the history of it, in a more concise, or striking manner, than his language conveys:—

‘ The *Beaver* is between three and four feet
‘ in length, weighs from forty to sixty pounds.
‘ His head is like that of a rat, inclined to the
‘ earth; his back rises in an arch between his
‘ head and tail. His teeth are long, broad,
‘ strong, and sharp: four of these, two in the
‘ upper, and two in the under jaw, are called
‘ *incisors*. These teeth project one or two inches
‘ beyond the jaw, and are sharp, and curved like
‘ a carpenter's gouge. In his fore feet the toes
‘ are separate, as if designed to answer the pur-
‘ poses of fingers and hands: his hind feet are
‘ accommodated with webs, suited to the pur-
‘ pose of swimming. His tail is a foot long, an
‘ inch thick, and five or six inches broad: it is
‘ covered with scales, and with a skin similar to
‘ that of a fish.

‘ In no animal does the *social instinct and habit*
‘ appear more strong or universal, than in the
‘ *Beaver*. Wheresoever a number of these ani-
‘ mals are found, they immediately associate, and
‘ combine in society, to pursue their common
‘ business, and welfare. Every thing is done by
‘ the united councils, and labours of the whole

community. Their societies are generally collected together in the months of *June* and *July*; and their numbers, when thus collected, frequently amount to two or three hundred; all of which immediately engage, in a joint effort, to promote the common business and safety of the whole society, apparently acting under a common inclination and direction. When the *Beaver* is found in a solitary state, he appears to be a timid, inactive, and stupid animal. Instead of attempting any important enterprize, he contents himself with digging a hole in the earth for safety and concealment. His genius seems to be depressed, his spirits broken, and every thing enterprizing is lost in an attention to personal safety; but he never loses his natural instinct to find or form a pond*. When combined in society, his disposition and powers assume their natural direction, and are exerted to the highest advantage: every thing is then undertaken which the *Beaver* is capable of per-

* A young *Beaver* was tamed in the Southern part of this State. He became quiet, inoffensive, and without any disposition to depart. But was most of all pleased, when he was at work, forming a dam, in a small stream near the house.

forming. The societies of *Beavers* seem to be regulated and governed altogether by natural dispositions and laws. Their society, in all its pursuits and operations, appears to be a society of peace and mutual affection; guided by one principle, and under the same direction. No contention, disagreement, contrary interests, or pursuits, are ever seen among them; but perfect harmony and agreement prevails through their whole dominions. The principle of this union and regulation, is not the superior strength, art, or activity of any individual: nothing has the appearance among them of the authority, or influence of a chief, or leader. Their association and management has the aspect of a pure and perfect democracy; founded on the principle of perfect equality, and the strongest mutual attachment. This principle seems to be sufficient to preserve the most perfect harmony, and to regulate all the proceedings of their largest societies. When these animals are collected together, their first attention is to the *public business and affairs* of the society to which they belong.

‘ The *Beavers* are amphibious animals, and
‘ must spend one part of their time in the water,
‘ and the other upon land. In conformity to
‘ this law of their natures, their first employ-
‘ ment is to find a situation, convenient for these
‘ purposes.

‘ With this view, a lake, a pond, or a running
‘ stream of water, is chosen for the scene of
‘ their habitation, and future operations: If it
‘ be a lake or a pond that is selected, the wa-
‘ ter is always of such depth, that the *Beavers*
‘ may have sufficient room to swim under the
‘ ice; and one, of which they can have an entire,
‘ and undisturbed possession. If a stream of
‘ water is chosen, it is always such a stream as
‘ will form a pond, that shall be every way con-
‘ venient for their purpose; and such is their
‘ foresight and comprehension of these circum-
‘ stances, that they never form an erroneous
‘ judgment, or fix upon a situation that will not
‘ answer their designs and convenience.

‘ Their next business is to construct a dam.
‘ This is always chosen in the most convenient

part of the stream, and the form of it is either direct, circular, or with angles, as the situation and circumstances of the water and land require; and so well chosen is both the place, and the form of these dams, that no engineer could give them a better situation and form, either for convenience, strength, or duration.

The materials of which the dams are constructed, are wood and earth. If there be a tree on the side of the river, which would naturally fall across the stream, several of the *Beavers* set themselves with great diligence, to cut it down with their teeth. Trees to the bigness of twenty inches diameter, are thus thrown across a stream. They next gnaw off the branches from the trunk, that the tree may assume a level position. Others, at the same time, are cutting down smaller trees, and saplings; from one to ten inches diameter. These are cut into equal and convenient lengths. Some of the *Beavers* drag these pieces of wood to the side of the river, and others swim with them to the place, where the dam is to be built. As many as

* can find room, are engaged in sinking one end
* of these stakes; and as many more in raising,
* fixing, and securing the other end. While
* many of the *Beavers* are thus labouring upon
* the wood, others are equally engaged in car-
* rying on the earthen part of the work. The
* earth is brought in their mouths, formed into
* a kind of mortar with their feet and tails, and
* spread over the vacancies between the stakes:
* saplings, and the small branches of trees, are
* twisted and worked up with the mud and
* slime; until all the vacancies are filled up; and
* no crevice is left in any part of the work, for
* the water to find a passage through. The
* magnitude and extent of the dams, which the
* *Beavers* thus construct, is much larger than we
* should imagine was possible to be effected, by
* such labourers, or instruments. At the bot-
* tom, the dam is from six to twelve feet thick;
* at the top, it is generally two or three feet in
* width. In that part of the dam, which is op-
* posed to the current, the stakes are placed ob-
* liquely, but on that side where the water is to
* fall, the stakes are placed in a particular di-
* rection; and the dam assumes the same form

and position, as the flakes. The extent of these works, is from fifty to an hundred feet in length; and always of such an height, as to effect the purposes they have in view. The ponds which are formed by these dams, are of all dimensions; from four or five, to five or six hundred acres. They are generally spread over lands abounding with trees, and bushes, of the softest wood: Maple, birch, alder, poplar, willow, &c.—The better to preserve their dams, the *Beavers* always leave sluices, or passages near the middle, for the redundant waters to pass off: These sluices are generally about eighteen inches in width, and depth; and as many in number, as the waters of the stream generally require.

When the public works are compleated, their *domestic concerns and affairs* next engage their attention. The dam is no sooner compleated, than the *Beavers* separate into small bodies, to build cabins, or houses for themselves. These houses are built upon piles, along the borders of the pond. They are of an oval form, resembling the construction of

an haycock; and they vary in their dimensions from four to ten feet in diameter, according to the number of families they are designed to accommodate. They are generally two stories in height, and sometimes they contain four. Their walls are from two to three feet in thickness, at the bottom; and are formed of the same materials as their dams. They rise perpendicularly a few feet, then assume a curved form, and terminate in a dome or vault, which answers the purpose of a roof. These edifices are built with much solidity, and neatness: On the inward side they are smooth, but rough on the outside; always impenetrable to the rain, and of sufficient strength to resist the most impetuous winds. The lower story is about two feet high: the second story has a floor of sticks, covered with mud: the third story is divided from the second, in the same manner, and terminated by the roof raised in the form of an arch. Through each floor there is a communication; and the lower floor is always above the level of the water, when it is raised to its greatest height. Each of these

* huts have two doors; one, on the land side,
* to enable them to go out and procure pro-
* visions by land; another under the water,
* and below where it freezes, to preserve their
* communication with the pond. If this, at
* any time, begins to be covered with ice, the
* ice is immediately broken, that the commu-
* nication may not be cut off with the air.

* In these huts the families of the *Beavers* have
* their residence. The smallest of their cabins
* contain one family, consisting generally of five
* or six *Beavers*; and the largest of the build-
* ings will contain from twenty to thirty. No
* society of animals can ever appear better regu-
* lated, or more happy, than the family of
* *Beavers*. The male and the female always
* pair. Their selection is not a matter of chance,
* or accident; but appears to be derived from
* taste, and mutual affection. In September, the
* happy couple lay up their store of provisions
* for winter. This consists of bark, the tender
* twigs of trees, and various kinds of soft wood.
* When their provisions are prepared, the season

‘ of love and repose commences: and during the
‘ winter they remain in their cabins, enjoying the
‘ fruits of their labours, and partaking in the
‘ sweets of domestic happiness. Towards the
‘ end of winter, the females bring forth their
‘ young, to the number of three or four. Soon
‘ after, the male retires to gather fish and vege-
‘ tables, as the spring opens; but the mother
‘ remains at home, to nurse and rear up the
‘ offspring, until they are able to follow their
‘ dams. The male occasionally returns, but not
‘ to tarry, until the fall of the year. But if any
‘ injury is done to their public works, the whole
‘ society are soon collected, and join all their
‘ forces to repair the injury, which affects their
‘ common-wealth.

‘ Nothing can exceed the *peace* and *regularity*
‘ which prevails in the families, and through the
‘ whole common-wealth of these animals. No
‘ discord or contention ever appears in any of
‘ their families. Every *Beaver* knows his own
‘ apartment and store-house; and there is no
‘ pilfering or robbing from one another. The
‘ male and the female are mutually attached to,

‘ never prove unfriendly, or desert one another.
‘ Their provisions are collected and expended,
‘ without any dissention. Each knows its own
‘ family, business, and property; and they are
‘ never seen to injure, oppose, or interfere with
‘ one another. The same order and tranquility
‘ prevail through the common-wealth. Different
‘ societies of *Beavers* never make war upon
‘ one another, or upon another animal’s. When
‘ they are attacked by their enemies, they instantly
‘ plunge into the water, to escape their
‘ pursuit: and when they cannot, they fall an
‘ easy sacrifice.

‘ In the *arts* necessary for their safety, the
‘ *Beavers* rise to great eminence. The situation,
‘ direction, form, solidity, beauty, and durability
‘ of their dams, are equal to any thing of the
‘ kind which has ever been performed by man.
‘ They always form a right judgment which way
‘ the tree will fall, and when it is nearly cut
‘ down they appoint one of their number to give
‘ notice by a stroke of his tail when it begins to
‘ fall. With their tails they measure the lengths
‘ of their dams, of the stakes they are to use, of

‘ a breach that is made in their works, and of
‘ the length of the timber that is necessary to re-
‘ pair it. When an enemy approaches their
‘ dominions, the *Beaver* which makes the dis-
‘ covery by striking on the water with his tail,
‘ gives notice to the whole village of the ap-
‘ proaching danger; and all of them instantly
‘ plunge into the water. And when the hunters
‘ are passing through their country, some of their
‘ number appear to be centinels, to give notice
‘ of their approach.

‘ The colour of the *Beaver* is different, ac-
‘ cording to the different climates which they
‘ inhabit. In the most Northern parts, they are
‘ generally black; in *Vermont* they are brown;
‘ and their colour becomes lighter as we ap-
‘ proach towards the South. Their fur is of
‘ two sorts all over their bodies. That which is
‘ longest, is generally about an inch long, but on
‘ the back, it sometimes extends to two inches,
‘ gradually shortening towards the head and tail.
‘ This part is coarse, and of little use. The
‘ other part of the fur consists of a very fine and
‘ thick down, of about three quarters of an inch

long, so soft that it feels like silk, and is that which is used in manufactories. Castor, of so much use in medicine, is produced from the body of the *Beaver*. It is contained in four bags, in the lower belly.

The largest of these animals, of which I have any certain information, weighed sixty three pounds and an half: but it is only in a situation remote from, and undisturbed by the frequent appearances of men, that they attain their greatest magnitude or their highest perfection of society. The *Beaver* has deserted all the Southern parts of *Vermont*, and is now to be found only in the most Northern, and uncultivated parts of the State.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.



WINDHAM COUNTY.

LETTER

XVI.

MY LORD,

NEWFANE, is the County Town in the County of *Windham*, it lies on exceedingly high ground; and being a central place, the General Assembly removed to it the public business of the County from *Westminster*. They have a good Court-House, and Goal.

This Town owes its consequence in a great measure to Mr. *Luke Knoulton*, a leading character, and a man of great ambition and enterprise, of few words, but possessed of the keenest perception, and an almost intuitive knowledge of human nature, of which he is a perfect judge. This gentleman, owing to the particular method in which he has transacted business, has obtained the appellation of *Saint Luke*. Young Mr. *Knoulton*, is a practitioner at the bar: he is modest, ingenuous, and master of abilities that give a fair promise of his becoming a most valuable citizen. *Saint Luke* is the owner of much the best and most elegant buildings in the place. Mr. *Whitney* is a man of erudition and science, he was educated at the University of *Cambridge*, and is Clerk to the General Assembly, which office he fills with credit to himself and justice to the public.

This place is extremely cold and bleak in Winter, and not very hot in Summer. The value of land is from six shillings to eight pounds per acre. The number of souls is about eight hundred.

Marlborough, Wilmington, Halifax, Whittingham, Wardsborough, Jamaica, Waltham, Grafton, and Londonderry, are on the range of Mountains with *Newfane*, they are most romantically diversified with hill and dale, and have some excellent land which produces abundant crops of all kinds of grain, and great quantities of hay. The inhabitants amount to above five thousand, and from their honest simplicity of manners, exemplary conduct, and strict attention to agriculture, they may well be styled the sons and daughters of CINCINNATUS. Happy, happy people! in peace and innocence, long, very long may you see your Country improve beneath the culture of your hands, and unmolested enjoy the fruits of your industry.

Hallifax is the most populous of these Towns, and has upon the whole, I think, the best land. They have several *Mines* and *Minerals*, but they have not yet begun to work any of them. As the Country increases in population, they will become inexhaustible sources of wealth. Timber, and the value of land differ not materially from *Newfane*. Their religion is *Episcopacy*, and

*Presbyterianism, but they are all Christians and
Brothers.*

I have the honour to be, &c, &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.



LETTER

XVII.

MY LORD,

HINDSDALE is the South Easterly corner Town of the State of *Vermont* ; it lies on *Connecticut River*, and is bounded, South, by *Massachusetts*. There is a ferry established here, to pass and repass this noble stream; and from this Town you proceed up the River through *Guildford*, *Brattleborough*, *Fulham*, *Putney*, *Townshend*, *Westminster*, and *Rockingham*.—*Athens* lies North West of *Westminster*. In the lands in these Towns, there is little or no difference, but if any, *Brattleborough* and *Westminster* have a preference. The roads through the above places are excellent ; the soil is, generally speaking, sandy, but

produces immense crops of all kinds of grain, hay, and the finest fruit; in a word, it is of a value almost inestimable.

In each of these places there is a Church, and Schools for the instruction of Youth. Their religion is *Presbytery*, *Episcopacy*, and *Deism*, and I know not which of these sectaries are most numerous. *Guildford* has the greatest number of inhabitants. *Brattleborough* is next in point of population; the whole number of souls in these districts amount to about twelve thousand.

Westminster is a delightful place, and contains several superb houses. Here were formerly held the Courts of Judicature, under the State of *New-York*, but the settlers, in March 1775, were so highly exasperated at the oppressive conduct, and insolence of the Governor of that State, and his junto of land-jobbers, that they assembled in arms, stopped the Court from sitting, drove them from their territory, and would never after suffer the Government of *New-York* to have the slightest jurisdiction over them.

And here let me observe, that the war between *England* and *America*, did not originate, in consequence of the destruction of the tea at *Boston*, as has been erroneously supposed: far from it; the destruction of the tea was only a secondary matter—the dissatisfaction commenced in 1764, in consequence of the arbitrary insolence of the Governor and Council of *New-York*, towards the Settlers West of *Connecticut River*, under the *New-Hampshire Grants*. In fact, had the Governor of *New-York* obeyed His Majesty's Royal Order,* made in July 1767, in consequence of the application of Messrs. *Robinson, Brackenridge, and Hawley*, Agents for the Settlers at the Court of *London*, instead of seeking his own private interest and emolument, the people of *New-England* (who were as deeply interested in the

* His Majesty doth hereby strictly charge, require, and command that the Governor, or Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Province of *New-York*, for the time being, do not, upon pain of His Majesty's highest displeasure, presume to make any Grant whatsoever, of any part of the Lands described in the Report from the Lords of the Trade and Plantation Affairs, until His Majesty's further pleasure shall be known concerning the same, &c. &c.

New Hampshire Grants, as the actual Settlers) would have remained quiet and contented. But the improvidence of the Governor and Council, in making Grants of the lands, and harassing the Settlers even to hostilities, in open violation of His Majesty's Royal Orders, incensed the people of *New-England*, and induced them (with a great appearance of justice on their part) to become jealous of the Government of *Great Britain*, which they had too much reason to believe trifled with their grievances, and they from that moment declared they would not be ruled by a King, whose edicts were so scandalously and infamously contradicted by those to whom he entrusted the execution of them. Hence arose the first cause of opposition in *America* against the Parent Country.

In *Hinsdale* lives the Hon. Mr. *Hunt*, late Lieutenant Governor of the State, a worthy Gentleman, and whose character is unexceptionable.

Mr. *Knights*, of *Guildford*, late Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of the State, was bred to the

Law, and is a Gentleman of great abilities, and who has rendered many essential services to his fellow Citizens, but I am sorry to add they have by no means been recompensed as they ought. To Mr. *Knights* that celebrated line of *Pope* may truly be applied,

“ An honest Man’s the noblest work of God.”

Mr. *Blake*, of *Brattleborough*, is a practitioner at the Bar. His manners are easy and agreeable, and he is master of every qualification to please.

Of *Putney*, Mr. *Candler* and Mr. *Griffin* are the leading members.

Messrs. *Bradley* and *Hall* are amongst the most considerable people in *Westminster*: both were bred to the Law, and Mr. *Hall* is one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, which office he fills in such a manner as to reflect honour, even on so important a station. His memory is so wonderfully tenacious, as to make him master of every subject he reads, or hears, and to enable

him to recapitulate them without the slightest hesitation, or previous study.

Mr. *Bradley* is also a Lawyer of distinguished abilities, and a good orator : he has held some of the most important offices of the State, and was late a Senator in Congress ; few men have more companionable talents, a greater share of social cheerfulness, a more inexhaustible flow of wit, or a larger portion of unaffected urbanity.

Before we take leave of *Westminster*, it may not be unworthy of remark, that the second Protestant Church in the State was built at this place, I shall also add an anecdote of an honest Farmer (one of the original Settlers) which happened at *Westminster*, and which will serve to shew the fanatical spirit which then prevailed—so contrary to that liberal toleration, now prevalent over *America*, and which so happily unites every denomination of Christians, in the bonds of Charity and Love—but to my story.—

The Farmer in question, was a plain pious

man, regular in the discharge of his duty both to his God and his neighbour ; but unluckily he happened to live near one with whom he was not inclined to cultivate either civil or friendly terms : this troublesome personage was no other than a monstrous over-grown he-Bear, that descended from the mountains, trod down and destroyed the corn fields, and carried off whatever he laid his paws upon. The plundered sufferer watched him in vain, the ferocious and cunning animal, ever finding methods to elude his utmost vigilance ; and at last it had learned its *cue* so thoroughly, as only to commit its depredations on the Lord's-Day, when it knew, from experience, the coast was clear : wearied out with these oft repeated trespasses, the good man resolved on the next Sunday to stay in his fields, where with his gun, he concealed himself.—The bear came according to custom—he fired and shot it dead.—The explosion threw the whole congregation (for it was about the hour of people's assembling to worship) into consternation.—The cause was enquired into, and as soon as the Pastor, Deacon, and Elders became acquainted with it, they called

a special meeting of the Church, and cited their offending brother before them, to shew cause, if any he had, why he should not be excommunicated out of Christ's Church; for this daring and unexampled impiety.—In vain did he urge from the scriptures themselves that it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath Day; he pleaded before judges determined to condemn him; and the righteous Parson, Elders, and Church, *unâ voce* agreed to drive him out from amongst them, as polluted and accursed. Accordingly he was enjoined (as is customary on such occasions) on the next Sunday to attend his excommunication in the Church. He did attend—but not entirely satisfied with the justice of the sentence, and too much of a foldier to be scandalized in so public a manner for an action which he conceived to be his duty, he resolved to have recourse to stratagem; he therefore went to the appointment with his gun, loaded with a brace of balls, his sword and cartridge-box by his side, and his knapsack on his back with six days provision in it.—Service was about half over when he entered the sanctuary in this martial array: he

11
marched leifurely into a corner, and took his position. As foon as the benediction was ended, the holy Parfon began the excommunication, but fcarcely had he pronounced the words "*Offending Brother,*" when the honeft old veteran cocked and levelled his weapon of deftruction, at the fame time crying out with a loud voice, "*Proceed if you dare—proceed, and you are a dead man.*"—At this unexpected attack, the aftonifhed Clergyman thrunk behind his defk, and his opponent with great deliberation recovered his arms; fome moments elapfed before the Parfon had courage to peep from behind his ecclefiaftical battery: when finding the old hero had come to a reft, he tremblingly reached the order to his eldeft Deacon, defiring him to read it. The Deacon, with ftammering accents, and eyes ftaring wild affright, began as he was commanded, but no fooner had he done fo, than the devoted victim again levelled his piece, and more vehemently than before exclaimed, "*Defift and march—I will not live with fhame—defift and march I fay, or you are all dead men.*"—Little need had he to repeat his threats, the man of God leaped from the defk, and efaped; the

Deacon, Elders, and Congregation, followed in equal trepidation; the greatest confusion prevailed; the women with shrieks and cries sought their homes, and the victor was left undisturbed master of the field, and of the Church too, the doors of which he calmly locked, put the keys in his pocket, and sent them with his respects to the Pastor.—He then marched home with all the honours of war, lived fourteen years afterwards, and died a brother in full communion, declaring to the last (amongst his intimates) that he never tasted so great a dainty before.

At *Rockingham* there are curious and most beautiful falls of water, called *Bellows's Falls*,—it passes over a bar of solid rock, about three hundred yards, in a zig-zag direction, and with a most astonishing velocity.—It is a real phenomenon, and well worthy the attention of the traveller. Over this fall is a good wooden bridge, built by Colonel *Hale*; the toll established by law, is four-pence for a man and horse.

Messrs. *Page* and *Morris* some time since obtained an Act of the General Assembly of *Vermont*, giving them the exclusive right of opening a Lock Navigation over these Falls, which they are now carrying into effect. When completed, *Connecticut River* will be navigable for boats, nearly three hundred miles above *Hartford*; and the inhabitants on the East side of it will be enabled to have for their exports and imports, a water communication with the River *Thames*—a glorious prospect for both Countries, and a source of commerce and wealth, to draw still closer between them the ties of amity.

Messrs. *Webb* and *Campbell* are leading characters in this place.

The religion of the people is divided into *Episcopacy* and *Presbyterianism*.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

WINDSOR COUNTY.

LETTER

XVIII.

MY LORD,

I HASTEN to give you a description of the County of *Windsor*, which I shall do in as brief a manner as possible.

When you leave the *Falls of Rockingham*, you proceed up the river to *Springfield*, *Weathersfield*, *Windsor*, *Hartland*, *Hartford*, and so on to *Norwich*, which towns lie on *Connecticut* River. In the quality of the lands, there is not any material difference, except *Weathersfield*, which has a great share of mountain attached to it, known by the name of *Asscutney*.

Windsor is built immediately upon the bank of the river, and is the capital of the County to which it gives its name, (although a half shire with *Woodstock*). The scite rises sufficiently to secure the houses from any apprehensions of being inundated: and more picturesque, or more commodious situations for building upon, can scarcely be conceived, than those formed by the curvetures of the waters, along this delightful shore. The houses are of wood, some of them erected with great taste and judgment. Messrs. *Green's*, *Jacob's*, *Leonard's*, *Conant's*, *Spooner's*, *Curtis's*, *Leveret's*, *Paine's*, and *Jones's*, are among the most elegant. These Gentlemen are the principal people of the place.

At *Windsor* there is a good Court House, and Goal. In the former, the sessions of the General Assembly, the Federal Courts, and the Supreme and County Courts are held.

Added to the beauty of its situation, Nature has profusely bestowed vast local advantages on this charming spot. Lying on one of the first rivers in the world, contiguous to, and

maintaining a constant and unavoidable intercourse with *New Hampshire*, and the immense Country to the North: these circumstances; the industry and enterprising spirit of its inhabitants; the great probability of its increasing population, from the accession of fresh numbers drawn thither from other countries, by the real and solid attractions it holds forth; its rising manufactures; in short, every thing unites to increase its consequence, and to render *Windsor*, sooner or later, a grand emporium of commerce and wealth.

In the last week of October 1796, was completed a bridge between *Carnisb*, (*New Hampshire*), and this town, which is five hundred and twenty one feet, from one abutment to the other, and thirty four feet wide. With a sublime boldness its arms embrace the subjugated flood that rolls beneath; there are two arches, each one hundred and thirty four feet and four inches in length, with a pier in the centre forty six feet one way, by forty one the other, with the addition of a heater, or triangular front, extending up the river about seventy feet at the

bottom, and gradually diminishing until it comes sufficiently above high water mark, to break the force of the ice, and defend the structure from danger. This bridge is universally allowed to be the best and most perfect in *America*; and it is the first of the kind thrown across *Connecticut* River. I have mentioned the manufactories of this Town. As yet, it is true, they are in their infancy, but they are hourly expanding into strength, and like the human body, they acquire force from every new exertion. Their youth, their manhood, their perfection are to come. Through what periods of Time are these to run? —Over what a portion of the globe to extend? On how many regions (yet unexplored, now the habitation of savage beasts, and of man, in his almost savage state) to pour forth their cheering influence, and to diffuse comfort and plenty, with all the endearing train of social duties? How is the mind elevated and enlarged by such glorious prospects? But to Omnipotence alone (of whose awful designs, we are but the weak instruments) does it belong to *foresee* and to *dispose*.

There is an excellent Printing-Office, and many large works and furnaces, for the making of pot and pearl ashes at *Windsor*, both in the old method, and that pointed out by Mr. *Samuel Hopkins*, of *Philadelphia*. There is also a corn-mill here, the property of Mr. *Curtis*, said to be one of the best in the *New-England* States, and capable of producing as great a quantity of flour.

Messrs. *Jacob* and *Paine*, were both bred to the Law, and are eminent in their profession. Mr. *Shuttleworth* is the Minister of the place, and is most deservedly venerated for his liberality, and exemplary deeds. The Church is a mean building, and a disgrace to *Windsor*.

In *Springfield* lives Mr. *Morris*, who is descended from one of the most respectable families in the City of *New-York*. This Gentleman is Speaker of the House of the General Assembly, and a Major-General of the Militia of the State.

Messrs. *Enos* and *Gallop*, are the leading cha-

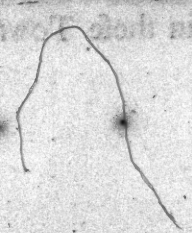
facters of *Hartland*. In *Hartford* lives Mr. *Masb*, formerly a Lieutenant-Governor of the State.

Norwich lies opposite to *Dartmouth College*, and is next to *Windsor*, the most populous place in this County. The families of *Olcott*, *Murdock*, *Brigham*, *Buck*, *Burton*, and *Hatch*, take the lead. Mr. *Olcot* was late Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. *Brigham* is one of the present Council, and a General in the Militia. The elder Mr. *Murdock*, on the formation of the State, was for some time one of the Council, but being tired with the noise and bustle of public affairs, retired to domestic enjoyments, and the calmer pleasures of private life. Mr. *Jasper Murdock*, to the advantages of an excellent education, unites the most accomplished manners: he is Aid-de-Camp to the Commander in Chief. Mr. *Buck* was bred to the Law, he possesses great abilities, is a good speaker, and a Representative in Congress from the East District of *Vermont*. The roads through these Towns are very fine, and the travelling presents a continual succession of agreeable objects. The inhabitants amount to

about eight thousand. Their religion is *Presbyterianism*, *Episcopacy*, and *Unitarianism*. The value of land is from one pound to sixty pounds per acre.

Chester and *Andover* lie on *Williams's River*. *Chester* is a tract of good land.

Cavendish, *Ludlow*, and *Saltafb*, lie on *Black River*, these and *Reading*, are Mountain Towns. *Cavendish* and *Ludlow* have good land. *Saltafb* seems more hardly dealt with, being in its appearance rocky, ragged, and miserable in the extreme, but Providence ever benificent, and ever wise, has, under this wretched aspect, stored up sources of wealth, to the possessors of the place, and put it largely in their power to dispense blessings and fertility to the surrounding lands, which are supplied with lime (so necessary in their cultivation) from the kilns of *Saltafb*. Let not therefore the impious mind dare for a moment to triumph, or suppose that any of God's works were created in vain.



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Messrs. *Dutton* and *Fletcher*, of *Cavendish*, are the leading people.

Woodstock and *Bridgewater* lie on *Waserqueechy River*. *Woodstock* is finely situated and well settled, and is a half shire with *Windsor*. Their public buildings are good, and they have a handsome Bridge over the River in the middle of the Town. Messrs. *Emmons*, *Masb*, *Richardson*, and *Williams* are the political fathers. The Rev. Mr. *Damon* is their Minister. Mr. *Masb* was bred to the Law, and is son to Governor *Masb*.

Pomfret, *Barnard*, and *Stockbridge* lie on the South side of *White River*. And *Sharon*, *Royalton*, *Bethel*, and *Rochester*, on the North side of it. This River empties itself into *Connecticut River* at *Hartford*.

Mr. *J. Smith*, of *Royalton*, was bred to the Law, and for a young Gentleman, Mr. *Smith* possesses great abilities, and is an excellent orator.

The difference of lands in these Towns is so

immaterial, that I shall not attempt to particularize them. The price is from six shillings to thirty pounds per acre. The number of souls is about four thousand two hundred. The religion is in unison with *Windsor*.

This County in general is well supplied with mills, of almost every description. Each of the aforefaid twenty-one Towns, or, as the term will be better understood in *England*, *Townships*, is six miles square, the general space allotted to every Town throughout the State of *Vermont*.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM,



ADDISON COUNTY.

LETTER

XIX.

MY LORD,

FROM *Mount Independence*, you proceed to *Shoreham*, *Bridport*, *Addison*, *Panton*, *Vergennes*, *Ferrisburgh*, and *Monkton*, all of which are in the County of *Addison*, and lie on Lake Champlain. This Lake is navigable from *Skeenesborough* to Fort *Saint John*, a distance of nearly two hundred miles. Its width is from one to sixteen miles, and is the largest Lake in *New England*; and the depth of the water is sufficient for the

largest ships to sail in. Near the shores it is rocky and dangerous. In this Lake are a number of Islands, of which the North and South Hero, and Isle la Motte, are the principal. Opposite to *Burlington Bay*, are four small Islands, called the Four Brothers. This Lake is richly stored with Turtle, Salmon, Salmon Trout, and almost all kinds of Fish. The iron ore which is washed out of this Lake to its shores, is immense. The lands in these Towns are in general filled with clay, yet produce vast crops of grain and hay, but the inhabitants tremble beneath that fatal scourge, the fever-ague.

Addison lies opposite to Old Crown Point; in this Town is Chimney Point, directly opposite to Crown Point. Lake Champlain is narrower between these points of land than in any other place. Mr. *Strong*, of *Addison*, is Chief Judge of the County Court, and one of the Council of State. *Middlebury* lies on Otter Creek; it is the capital of the County of *Addison*, and the place where the Sittings of the Supreme and County Courts are established. This Town is increasing rapid-

ly, and I doubt not but it will soon become of considerable consequence, and erect its head above most of those in the inland Country. Near the spot where the County Buildings are now erecting, is a beautiful fall of water, over a bar of solid rock, supremely calculated by Nature, for the scite of corn and saw mills, and iron works, a number of which have already been erected by the honourable Mr. *Painter*. This Gentleman was for some time one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he filled with dignity and honour; he is universally esteemed and respected by all who know him.

Mr. *John Chipman* is High Sheriff of the County, and well merits that important office; he is humane and kind, possesses a generous heart, and the most agreeable and engaging manners. Mr. *Chipman* has an elegant seat on Otter Creek, five miles South of the County Buildings. Messrs. *Stores*, *D. Chipman*, and *Miller*, are practitioners at the Bar.

Weybridge, Cornwall, Salisbury, Leicester, and

Whiting, also lie on Otter Creek,* the low lands of which, are more or less overflowed in the Spring of the year, by the waters of the Creek. The soil is deep and rich. *Cornwall* and *Weybridge* are the best lands in the County for raising wheat.

* Otter Creek took its name from that curious and extraordinary Animal called the Otter, which Animal, by Dr. *Williams*, is described thus. "The Otter is a voracious
"Animal, of great activity and fierceness, when it is full
"grown; it is five or six feet long, with sharp and strong
"teeth, short legs, and membranes in all his feet, and fitted
"either for running or swimming. The Otter explores the
"rivers in search of fish, frogs, water rats, and other small
"animals; and when these are not to be had, he lives on
"the boughs and bark of young or aquatic trees. He has
"generally been ranked among the amphibious Animal, for
"he cannot live without respiration, any more than the land
"Animals. The female Otter generally brings forth her
"young in the month of March; the litter usually
"consists of three or four. The fierceness and strength of
"the old Otter is such, that a dog can seldom overcome
"him; and when he cannot escape, he will attack the
"hunter with great rage. The colour of this Animal is
"black, and its fur is much esteemed."

Newhaven lies on a beautiful River of the same name, which in many respects resembles *Roaring Branch* at *Arlington*; the adjoining land is rich and fertile, and very heavily timbered.

Vergennes is situated at the Great Fall on Otter Creek, five miles distant from the place where it discharges its waters into Lake Champlain, at *Ferrisburgh*. This Creek is about ninety-five miles in length, and is navigable for small boats, as far up as *Pittsford*, a distance from *Ferrisburgh* of fifty miles. Ships of war can come up to the Fall at *Vergennes*, which place took its name from a Nobleman high in power at the French Court, during the American War. About five years ago, the General Assembly granted to the inhabitants of *Vergennes* an act of incorporation, giving them the liberty to form themselves into a body corporate, with all the powers and privileges customary for other cities to enjoy. *Vergennes* is now in its infancy, but bids fair to expand into eminence, and to reach a high pitch of grandeur, wealth, and fame: as from the great advantages it possesses of water communication;

its numerous mills, forges, and iron founderies, the natural attractions held out for manufactories of every kind; and the uncommonly rich land, with which it is encircled; it must become a place of the first mercantile consequence.

Messrs. *Hitchcock*, *Woodbridge*, *Fitz*, *Chipman*, and *Brush*, are its present political fathers. Mr. *Hitchcock* was bred to the Law, and is a Gentleman of superior abilities, as well as an excellent orator; he was late Attorney-General of the State, and is now Judge of the District Court, under the Federal Government.

Mr. *Woodbridge* was bred to the Law, and is one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. Mr. *Fitz* is the Marshal of the District.

Bristol, *Lincoln*, *Warren*, *Ripton*, *Kingston*, *Goshen*, and *Hancock*, are Mountain Towns. *Kingston* is infinitely the best land; in this place is the source of *White River*. *Bristol* and *Lincoln* are infested with dens of the Rattlesnake. In the Spring of the year they swarm forth from amongst

the rocks in prodigious numbers, and descend to the low lands; the bite of this Snake is dangerous, and often proves mortal. The number of souls in this County do not exceed eight thousand; they are, in general, *Unitarians*.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.



CHITTENDEN COUNTY.

LETTER

XX.

MY LORD,

The County of *Chittenden* took its name from his Excellency, Governor *Chittenden*. This County has twenty-three towns, besides the Island of *South Hero*. *Charlotte*, *Shelburne*, *Burlington*, *Colchester*, and *Milton* are the lake towns. *Burlington* is the capital. Finer land there cannot be in any part of the universe than these, either as to richness of soil, or beauty of situation.

Hinsburgh, *Williston*, *Jericho*, *Essex*, and *West-*

ford, are the second tier of towns from the lake ; nor are the major part of their territories inferior, in my opinion, to the lands now immediately upon the lake. *Williston* and *Jericbo* lie on *Onion River*, which is one of the finest streams in *Vermont* ; it rises in *Washington*, runs about seventy miles in a North Westerly direction, and empties itself into *Champlain*, between *Burlington* and *Colchester* : it is navigable for small boats about five miles from the lake. This river took its name from the following circumstance. A Mr. *Peleg Sunderland* in 1761, in hunting for the Beaver on this stream, lost his way, and was nearly exausted with fatigue and hunger, when a party of Indians fortunately met him, and with great humanity relieved his wants, and saved him from perishing. Their provisions were poor ; but what they had they freely gave, and their kindness made amends for more costly fare. Their whole store consisted of onions, and Mr. *Sunderland* then gave to the stream, near which he was so providentially preserved, the name of *Onion River*, which it has retained ever since.

Starksborough, Newbuntington, Bolton, Mansfield, Underbill, Stowe, Worcester, Waterbury, Middlesex, Duxbury, Moreton, Fayston, and Waitfield, are Mountain Towns, and their land is rather of an inferior quality. The present estimate is from four shillings to six pounds per acre.

About ten miles from *Burlington Bay*, in *Williston*, which is on the South side of *Onion River*, is the beautiful and elegant residence of Governor *Chittenden*. The buildings are of brick, finely elevated on a well-chosen spot of ground, which commands a boundless prospect, over a vast Country of intervale lands of thousands of acres of which the Governor is owner in fee. Of this most excellent man's origin, and political and private character, I shall give you a brief account.—His great Grandfather was a native of *Wales*, who after serving as a serjeant under *Oliver Cromwell*, during the Usurpation, fled for refuge to *Milford* in *Connecticut*, where he lived many years much respected, leaving a good character and a numerous

progeny behind him. Governor *Chittenden* settled at *Salisbury* in *Connecticut*, where this Gentleman was brought up, and from whence he emigrated to *Vermont*, and settled at *Arlington*.

At the first formation of the Government, held by a general convention of the people, at *Westminster* the 16th, of January, 1777, Mr. *Chittenden* was the only person of the whole number, who had ever before sat, in the capacity of a Legislator, and in fact, was the only man amongst them who knew any thing relative to the forming of a state, and adapting to it a Constitution and Law. The people, sensible of his great political talents, sound judgment, and inflexible integrity, elected him their governor, in full faith that he would exert his powers to the utmost, to oppose the oppression under which they conceived they then laboured; nor were they disappointed in their expectations; his indefatigable labours, and assiduous perseverance for the welfare of the state, soon secured to him their unlimited confidence, and hitherto he has been their Governor, except one year, when

through party intrigue, and misrepresentation of facts, combined together, Mr. *Moses Robinson* got into the chair, but not by the *vox populi*: for the following year, Mr. *Chittenden* was eagerly elected by the universal suffrages and undivided acclamations of the people.

For natural talents, and as a perfect judge of human nature, Governor *Chittenden* has not a superior. His manners are plain and easy, without pomp, or superficial compliments, and he always prefers solid sense and substance to forms and ceremonies. On the admission of *Vermont* into the Federal Union, February 1791, that truly Great, that Greatest of Mankind, GENERAL WASHINGTON, speaking of Governor *Chittenden*, said, "Governor *Chittenden*, for his virtues and patriotism, deserves well of his Country."

Thomas Paine, let the base and malevolent rancour of your heart, brood over your disappointed ambition in silence.—You attempt, in vain, to tear the well-earned laurel from the brow of him you would vilify.—The name of WASHINGTON

adorns the page of history, and is an honour to the age in which he lives. It will, in future ages, be the theme of wonder and of praise, while that of *Thomas Paine* (if it should be heard of at all) will only be mentioned as having appertained to an *envious incendiary*.

Speaking of GENERAL WASHINGTON, I am led to pay an honest tribute to another of the Gentlemen, who fortunately for *America*, have deserved to be calumniated by Mr. *Thomas Paine*, —I mean, Mr. *Jay*. This worthy man, possessing a firm, upright, and decided mind; and, with a clear and comprehensive understanding, viewing the true interests of his Country, pursued those interests with unremitting ardour, till his endeavours were crowned with success, and till (in conjunction with many of the best and wisest men in the New World), he had the happiness of uniting *England* and the Federal States, in the bonds of friendship and amity. Despising the petty brawlings of a clamorous Pedagogue, and holding in just contempt his virulent invectives, (the *only* language this *pretended* advocate for the rights

and liberties of mankind, can deal in) with calm indifference they hear him "*howl against the moon,*" and spit his venom forth against every institution held sacred or respectable in civilized Society—but *Citizen Paine* is known, and his merits are justly appreciated in *America!!!* So also are those of Mr. *Jay*—who is beloved and venerated by his fellow-citizens, as the real friend of Order and good Government ; while his *Calumniator* is deservedly an Alien from those States which he would throw into confusion. But to return to my subject.—

No State in *America* ever made so rapid a settlement, or such quick improvements as that of *Vermont* ; and it must be acknowledged, even by Mr. *Chittenden's* enemies (for where is the man without them !) that the progress of the Settlement is in a great degree to be attributed to his wise administration.

Mr. *Jonathan Spafford* has a beautiful seat, adjoining on Governor *Chittenden's*. This Gentle-

man is a General in the Militia, and a Representative to the General Assembly.

Messrs. *Hodges, Noab and Martin Chittenden*, are leading characters in *Jericho*.

Burlington is situated on a fine Bay of the Lake, distant from *Fort St. John's* about eight miles, and is laid out in the most regular and best manner. For local advantages and surrounding scenery, *Burlington* has not its superior in the Northern parts of the State. The University of *Vermont*, and the Sessions of the Supreme and County Courts are established here. A house for the President of the College, and several others, are now building.

The Office of the Customs for the Port of *Alburgh* (the only Port in *Vermont*) is kept at *Burlington* by Colonel *Keys*; this Gentleman, Messrs. *Pearl, Lee, Stanton, Law, and Coit*, are the leading people. Mr. *Lee* was bred to the Law, but declined the practice, and afterwards turned his attention to the Presbyterian system of Divinity,

in which situation he conducted himself in such a manner, as to be looked up to, and venerated by persons of every description and every sect, who all unite in paying to his character the tribute such excellence deserves: to unaffected piety he joins the highest classical knowledge in the Greek and Latin languages.

Between *Burlington* and *Colchester*, about one mile from the Bay, is the great Fall on *Onion River*, belonging to Mr. *Ira Allen*; on this Fall are built large mills, forges, and iron founderies. In *Colchester* (the North side of *Onion River*) is this Gentleman's seat; the place where General *Ethan Allen* for some time resided previous to his death. Of the *Allens*, there were seven brothers, all of whom are now dead except *Levi* and *Ira*. This family emigrated to *Vermont* from *Salisbury* in *Connecticut*; but their native place was *Roxbury*, in *Litchfield County*.

Mr. *Ethan Allen* was a man of an extraordinary character, he possessed great talents, but deficient in education, he laboured under many disadvan-

tages. At the beginning of the disturbances in *Vermont*, he took a most spirited and active part for the Settlers, or, as they were then called, *The Green Mountain Boys*, in opposition to the Government of *New-York*; and notwithstanding that Government passed an Act of Outlawry against him, *Warner*, and several others, (offering a reward of five hundred guineas to any person who would deliver *Allen* up) he was in all these struggles still successful, and not only proved a valuable friend to the people, and a firm supporter of their rights, but when called upon to take the field, an intrepid soldier, and an able General. At the commencement of the war between *England* and *America* in 1775, *Ethan Allen* took the command of a party of troops of his own raising, and in the month of *May*, before the British Forces were apprized of the war, advanced to the Forts of *Ticonderoga* and *Crown Point*, and took possession of them. The *November* following, at the siege of *Saint John's*, he made a bold attempt, with a handful of men, to land on the Island of *Montreal*, but venturing too far, he was taken, put on board a

prison-ship, and conveyed to *England*, where he was confined for a considerable time in *Pendennis Castle*, in *Cornwall*, during which he suffered many hardships. On his release from captivity, and his return to *America*, he was never after so warm a partizan as before. Being a man fond of *novelty*, and wishing to be thought of consequence, he wrote and published a book, entitled, *Allen's Theology, or Oracles of Reason*; in this Work his principal object was to explain away the Doctrine of *Moses* and the *Prophets*, and turn the whole System of Religion and Revelation into ridicule. However in this his vanity defeated itself, for the attempt was so *repugnant to Reason*, (the oracles of which he would fain have been thought to deliver), that few would so much as read a Work so gross and monstrous; and at the very outset it sunk into the oblivion and contempt it merited. General *Allen* believed, or *affected* to believe, with *Pythagoras*, that man after death would transmigrate into beasts, fish, fowls, and reptiles, and I have often heard him affirm, that he should live again under the form of a large white horse, which I suppose was his fa-

vourite colour in that animal. Yet notwithstanding these his wild ideas of Religion and futurity, it is barely justice to declare, that in all his moral dealings and concerns, *Urban Allen* possessed the strictest sense of honour, integrity, and uprightness.

Mr. *Ira Allen* has been Treasurer of the State, a Commissioner to Congress, and a Commissioner to the Governor-General of *Canada*, and to the State of *New-Hampshire*, several times a Representative to the General Assembly; he is now a Major-General of the Militia. Mr. *Ira Allen*, as a negociator, possesses great abilities; he is master of a large landed property, and is fond of speculating in land; but he has lately entered into another speculation, which it is hoped may prove more advantageous to him. On my return to *America* in the year 1796, to report the result of my agency at the Court of *London*, I communicated to Mr. *Allen* my determination to sail back to *England* by the first ship, to which he immediately answered that he would accompany me: we accordingly left *Boston* on the 11th of *Decem-*

ber following, on board the *Minerva*, and arrived on shore at *Falmouth*, in twenty-two days.

Mr. *Allen*, after remaining about four months in *London*, took a tour to *France* and *Holland*. While in *France*, he purchased of the Executive Directory, twenty thousand stand of arms, and several pieces of brass ordnance, and shipped them and himself on board the *Olive Branch*, for the Port of *New-York*, in *America*. Sixty leagues West of *Scilly*, his Majesty's ship, the *Audacious*, returning from the Mediterranean, unfortunately for General *Allen*, fell in with and captured the *Olive Branch*, and brought her into port. [Thus, owing to the disagreeable circumstances of war, and the various opinions relative to the destination of these arms, is Mr. *Allen* at present detained : and I sincerely hope that, whatever scrutiny his conduct in this affair shall undergo, it will redound to his own honour, and to the satisfaction of the British Government.

Mr. *Stanton*, of *Colchester*, resides in a most

beautiful spot, and is one of the first characters there.

Messrs. *M'Neal* and *Harrington*, of *Charlotte*, are the principal persons of that place. Mr. *Harrington* was bred to the Law, and possesses great professional knowledge.

The number of inhabitants is about five thousand. In their religion they consist of sectaries of almost every denomination.

I have the honour to be, &c, &c.

J. A. GRAHAM



ORANGE COUNTY.

LETTER

XXI.

MY LORD,

THE County of *Orange* commences, immediately as you leave *Norwich*, to proceed up *Connecticut River*. This County has twenty towns, which are laid out regularly in five tiers. *Thetford*, *Fairlee*, *Bradford*, and *Newbury*, are next the River, and form the first tier. The second is composed of *Topsbam*, *Corinth*, *Vershire*, and *Stratford*. *Topsbam* and *Corinth* lie on

Wait's River. The third tier contains *Tunbridge*, *Chelsea*, *Washington*, and *Orange*. *Wildersburgh*, *Williamstown*, *Brookfield*, and *Randolph* make the fourth ; and the fifth comprehends *Braintree*, *Roxbury*, *Northfield*, and *Berlin*. The three last tier lie principally on the mountains, yet have a large share of good land appertaining to them.

Newbury, which is the capital of the County, is seated on the bank of the River, two hundred miles North by East from *Hartford*, in *Connecticut*. In this town are those extensive intervals known by the name of the great *Ox-Bow*, which form the River assumes in its course at this place. This fertile spot, after the *Aborigines* had left it, was enclosed and taken possession of by a *Mr. Chamberlaine*, who afterwards relinquished his right, and with *Colonel Bailey* and others became a joint proprietor of the whole town.

Westward of the low lands, and within the town of *Newbury* are high mountains, from whence the inhabitants by means of aqueducts are sup-

plied with water. *Newbury* has the most elegant church in the State, with a large *bell*, and the only *bell* in the State. Messrs. *Bailey*, *Farrand*, and *Johnson*, are the leading characters.

Mr. *Farrand* was bred to the Law, he is descended from one of the most respectable families in *Connecticut*, is celebrated in his profession as an able lawyer, and distinguished by the brilliancy of his wit and humour.

In *Fairlee*, Messrs. *Morey*, *Buckingham*, and *Niles*, are the leading people. Mr. *Niles* was educated for the church, he is a good Metaphysician, and for his learning and abilities may be styled the *Athenian* of the East side of the Green Mountain. Mr. *Niles* has been late a Representative from the State in Congress.

Mr. *Buckingham* studied the Law at the Temple in London, and has abilities and worth that do honour to the profession.

Mr. *Payne* of *Williamstown* was late a Judge of the Supreme Court, and is now a Senator in Congress for the East District.

The Rev. Mr. *Burton* lives in *Thetford*; he is a Calvinistic Divine, and a good scholar.

The number of souls in this County do not exceed ten thousand, they are a mixture of sects of all professions. The value of land is from six shillings to twenty-five pounds an acre.

As Prince *Edward* and his suite, about four years ago, passed through *Williamstown*, in this County, they made a halt at an Inn in the place to procure refreshments. Soon after they entered the Log-Hut, the Prince, seeing a book lie on a table, asked the Landlady, in a jocular manner, the name of it. "The *Bible*, Sir," said the woman, with great modesty. "The *Bible*," replied the Prince, "pray did you ever read any other book besides the *Bible*?" "Oh yes, Sir," answered she, with the utmost composure, and with a smile, "I have read *Peter Pindar*."

It would be injustice to refrain from saying, that the amiable manners of this accomplished young man, have made him a favourite wherever he is known; his rank may possibly secure him some degree of respect even in *America*; but to his virtues he is alone indebted for the fond affection with which he every where regarded, and for that esteem, which his benevolence of heart secures to him.—To be Royally born is accidental.—To possess such distinguished and noble qualities as Prince *Edward's*, and to make such a meritorious use of them, is to be Royal indeed.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM,



CALEDONIA COUNTY.

LETTER

XXII.

MY LORD,

THE County of *Caledonia* consists of twenty-three Townships. *Ryegate*, *Barnet*, and *Lyttleton*, lie on *Connecticut River*; *Ryegate* adjoins on *Newbury*. In the allotment of lands to these Towns there is a good deal of mountain, but they nevertheless have considerable tracts of most excellent meadow and pasture grounds. *St. Johnsbury* lies on the River *Pasumpsick* (so

called by the native Indians), and is the capital of the County. To this Town is attached some of the best land in the whole State. *Groton, Peacham, Deweysburgh, Danville, and Hopkinton*, form the second chain from the River, and through their territory runs a range of very high Mountains, covered with immense forests of yet uncleared timber. *Harrisborough, Saint Andrews, Marshfield, Cabot, Walden, Lyndon, and Burk*, constitute the third tier. *Montpelier, Calais, Woodbury, Hardwick, Wheelock, Sheffield, and Byllymead*, are on the West line of this County, the lands of which in general are particularly good for grass and fattening cattle. *Caledonia* contains many well-cultivated farms, and some elegant houses, but at present there are not any public buildings except Churches, and but few of them. The increase of this County, in the course of the last six years, is really wonderful. The first principal inhabitant in *St. Johnsbury* was the truly patriotic and learned Doctor *Arnold*, who is now no more. The Doctor emigrated from *Providence* in the State of *Rhode Island*.—How sincerely his death is lamented, those only who had the happiness of being known to him can

feel. His son was bred to the Law, to which profession he does honour. His attainments are great; with the Greek and Roman Authors he is familiar; and however strange it may appear, perhaps Mr. *Arnold* may be said to be the only person in *Vermont* who is perfect master of the French language, and who speaks it in its utmost purity.

Mr. *R. Tylor* (formerly of *Boston, Massachusetts*), lives in *Ryegate*; he also was bred to the Law: he possesses a fine turn for poetry, and unites to it the most humane disposition, and a most benevolent heart.—Does misery need an advocate? Mr. *Tylor* eagerly steps forth, its unpurchased champion. Does guilt (when not atrocious) sink down heart-broken and desponding? in Mr. *Tylor* it finds a man, who (though his own morals are irreproachable) feels for the errors of others, pities their vices, and compassionates their wants. How commanding in his oratory when pleading in their behalf! with what resistless power does it assail the hearers! he rouses every sympathizing passion of their souls, attacks them in every vulnerable part; awes, soothes, softens, and finally

prevails. Such a character can seldom fail of being considered with due respect. Mr. *Tylor* is looked up to with admiration, affection, and esteem.

Hopkinsville took its name from Mr. *Hopkins*, a Gentleman of the first respectability, and who for some time was Clerk to the General Assembly of *Vermont*.

Deweysburgh was granted to Mr. *Dewey*, of *Bennington* (whom I have mentioned in a former Letter), and from him it took its name. In *Cabot* live Messrs. *Levinsworth* and *Hitchcock*, who were the principal founders of this Township. Mr. *Levinsworth* emigrated from the City of *New-Haven*, in *Connecticut*, but his native place is *Waterbury*; he possesses good abilities, and is a Representative to the General Assembly.

In the Townships on the Mountain the snow falls very deep, but does not continue so long as in many other parts of the State, and when it dissolves, the rapidity of the vegetation is astonishing, and grain and fruit come to maturity as soon

as in more temperate climates, and where there is little or no Winter.

The latter end of *May*, and the beginning of *April*, is the season for tapping the Maple Tree, being the time the frost generally leaves the ground, and the sap ascends from the roots into the trunk of the tree: of this sap, when drawn off, vast quantities of sugar are made, of a most delicious flavour, but great care is necessary in boiling down the sap, not to let it burn. The method pursued by the *Aborigines* in making this article was as follows: Large troughs were made, out of the Pine Tree, sufficient to contain a thousand gallons or upwards; the young Indians collected the sap into these troughs, the women in the mean time (for the men consider every thing but war and hunting as beneath their dignity) made large fires for heating the stones necessary for the process; when these were fit for their purpose, they plunged them into the sap in the troughs, and continued the operation till they had boiled the sugar down to the consistence they wished.

There are two kinds of the Maple Tree, from which sap is taken. One, the black, or hard Maple; the other the white, or soft Maple; the former makes infinitely the best grained and best flavoured sugar, and fully equal in quality to the best Muscovado. The White Maple most generally grows in swampy grounds, and the pores of it are more open and spongy than the Black Maple.

The land in this County is from six shillings to ten pounds per acre. The inhabitants do not exceed two thousand five hundred, their religion is a mixture of almost every sect in the Christian Church.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

LETTER

XXIII.

MY LORD,

THE County of *Franklin* consists of eighteen Towns, beside the *North Hero*, *Ilamotte*, and *Alburgh*. *Georgia*, *St. Alban's*, *Swanton*, and *Higb-gate*, lie on *Lake Champlain*, and are rich in lands of a very superior quality. *St. Albans* is the capital of the County. *Fairfax*, *Smithfield*, *Sheldenvale*, and *Huntsburgh*, form the second range of Towns from the Lake. *Huntsburgh* is the

North West corner Town of the State. *Barkshire* and *Richford* also lie on *Canada Line* (latitude 45) *Enesburgh*, *Montgomery*, *Bakersfield*, *Belvidere*, *Cambridge*, and *Johnstown*, are situated on the Mountain. The land in *Cambridge* is much preferable to any other in these places. The River *Lamoille*, which runs through *Cambridge*, takes its rise from a pond in *Glover*, and empties itself into *Lake Champlain*, about three miles from *Colchester Point*. This River differs but little in magnitude from *Onion River*, and like that has excellent land on its banks. The *Michiscoui* rises in *Belvidere* and runs into *Champlain*, at *Michiscoui Bay*, in *Highbate*. On this River, in *Swanton*, is a large fall of water, (distant from the Bay seven miles), and on which Mr. *Ira Allen* has erected large mills and forges, and boats of the largest size come up to their very doors.

The land in this County is, generally speaking, very heavily timbered with Beech, Maple, White Oak, Pine, and Hemlock.

In *Huntsburgh* lives Mr. *E. Marwin*, a physi-

cian, possessing as great medical skill as any Gentleman in that profession can boast of; nor are his talents confined to Physic alone, but are exerted (and I feel pleasure in saying that all who know him will bear witness to the truth of this assertion) with equal advantage to his fellow-citizens, in every other circumstance he undertakes of a public nature. Dr. *Marwin* was Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and is now one of the Council of State. Mr. *Fasset*, of *Cambridge*, was also, for some time, Chief Judge, and a Member of the Council of State.

Sheldenvale took its name from the Messrs. *Sheldens*, who are the principal owners of this district; the eldest Mr. *Shelden* is the gallant man who commanded a regiment of Cavalry, from *Connecticut*, during the American War. He is descended from one of the best families in that State, but a character such as his, stands not in need of any honours that ancestry can bestow. Colonel *Shelden* reflects back a brilliancy upon his progenitors, and has established a name, of which his posterity may justly be proud.

The family of *Hartboway* is the leading one of *St. Albans*.

The travelling in this County in the spring and fall of the year is very unpleasant, as your horse is often from his knees to his body obliged to founder on through mud and mire, owing to the depth and richness of the soil, its uncultivated state, and the want of proper roads. Land is from six shillings to ten pounds per acre, and is increasing most rapidly in value, though there is not at present a public building in the whole County. But agriculture (that truest source of solid wealth) advancing as it does with eager strides, over this, as well as every other part of *Vermont*, will soon remove these temporary inconveniencies.

The number of souls in *Franklin* County do not exceed three thousand. Their religion is *Presbytery* and *Unitarianism*.

As in a former Letter I mentioned the Log Hut,

I will here, for the satisfaction of those who may not have an idea of it, give a short account of its construction.—When any person fixes upon a settlement in this quarter of the Country, with the assistance of one or two others, he immediately sets about felling trees proper for his purpose, these are from one to two feet in diameter, and forty feet or upwards in length, as best suits the convenience and wishes of the builder. When the branches are lopped off, and a sufficient number of logs are prepared, blocks are cut for the corners. The largest four of these are placed in a square form, upon a solid foundation of stone, this done, the logs are rolled upon blocks, one above another, until the square becomes about twenty or twenty-five feet high, the rafters are then made for the roof, which is covered with the bark taken off the trees, and placed lengthways from the ridge, with a jet sufficient to carry off the rain. The interstices in the body of the hut, are filled up with mortar, made of the wild grass, chopped up and mixed with clay. When the outside is thus completed, one of the corners is chosen within where some flat broad stones are fixed, for the fire-place, with a small opening di-

rectly over it for the smoke to ascend through, and which also serves to give light to the inhabitants. And here large fires of wood, are constantly kept burning (in Winter both day and night) so that scarce any thing can be imagined more comfortable and warm than this large apartment; round the walls and in the corners of which are the beds, and sometimes those of the young men or women are elevated on lofts, made of rafters, laid across from side to side, with a flooring of bark over them. The door is almost always as nearly opposite the hearth as possible.

In this manner is an abode finished, spacious enough to accommodate twelve or fifteen persons, and which often serves for as many years, till the lands are entirely cleared, and the settlers become sufficiently opulent to erect better houses. Three men will build one of these huts in six days.

What delightful sensations must it excite in every generous and benevolent mind, to reflect that the industrious and enterprising poor man may thus easily establish himself in the world, and

lay the foundation, not only of happiness, but of affluence, with the encreasing population of the district, his wealth is sure to increase in proportion; and often raised from poverty and want, he becomes the venerable patriarch of a numerous progeny, and with honest pride, beholds his children, and his children's children, flourishing around him, in comfort and independence, and eager to emulate his virtues. With a thankful heart he acknowledges the goodness of Providence, and his grey hairs descend in blessedness to the grave.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.

ESSEX COUNTY.

LETTER

XXIV.

MY LORD,

LEAVING the County of *Orange* at *Littleton*,
you enter *Essex* County, and proceed up *Con-*
necticut River, through *Concord*, *Lunenburg*,
Guildhall, *Maidstone*, *Ferdinand*, *Brunswick*, *Mine-*
head, *Lemington*, *Averill*, *Canaan*, and *Norfolk*, all
of which lie on the banks of this noble stream.
Norfolk is the North East corner Town of the
State (on the line of latitude 45.) *Victory*, *East*

Haven, Wenlock, Lewis, and Norton, are the second tier of Townships in this County. *Newark, Westmore, and Random,* are the third, making in all, twenty Townships in *Essex*.

Minehead is the capital. The lands on the River have a deep rich soil, and are exceedingly good for hay and grafs. The Intervales are not so extensive as those in *Windsor* and *Windham* Counties, but gradually grow narrow, as the River lessens. There is much Mountain land in these districts, the cultivated parts of which, scarcely yield to any part of the State in fertility, producing great crops of wheat and Indian corn; The back Townships are situated excessively high, amidst vast quantities of timber, and abound with Tin, Lead, and Copper Ores. And here let me observe, that the most romantic imagination can scarcely conceive any thing more commanding than the scenes many of these Settlements present to the view.—Towns rising above Towns in gradual succession, up the sides of one of the most beautiful Mountains in Nature, the higher ones still overlooking the rest, and the landscape

diversified with innumerable prospects of the different Lakes and Rivers that are every where so profusely scattered, while *Champlain* and *Connecticut*, the reservoirs of the whole, at once both *divide* and *unite* extensive and potent States, and add a grandeur to the surrounding Countries, of which an adequate description cannot possibly be conveyed.

Potatoes are cultivated in *Essex*, and indeed throughout the whole State, in as great quantities and as high perfection, as are to be met with in any Country in the world.

The women of this State bear hardships in an incredible degree, and I must, in justice to my fair Countrywomen declare, that better housewives, or more expert in the use of the needle, do not exist; nor do they confine themselves slothfully within doors when the labours of the field stand in need of their assistance, they then with chearfulness and alacrity join the men, and help to gather in the harvest.—Fathers, husbands, wives, children, unite with one accord.

- ' The smile of Morning gleams along the hills,
 ' And wakeful Labour calls her sons abroad;
 ' They leave, with chearful looks, their lowly vills,
 ' And bid the fields resign their ripen'd load.
 ' To diff'rent tasks address the rustic band,
 ' And here the scythe—and there the sickle wield;
 ' And rear the new-bound sheaves along the land,
 ' Or range in heaps the produce of the field:
 ' Some build the flocks,—some load the spacious wains,
 ' Some lead to shelt'ring barns the fragrant corn;
 ' Some form tall ricks, that, tow'ring o'er the plain,
 ' For many a mile the rural yards adorn.'

Indolence, that too frequent *curse* of more polished Nations, they are strangers to.—Languor flies far from their habitations; inured to industry, they rejoice in its blessings; and pass their lives in a constant succession of useful employment, mirth, and good humour.

Many of the farmers in *Vermont* celebrate the

• Waggon.

conclusion of their wheat harvest, with feasts and sports; as I am told is still the custom in several parts of *England*.

(‘ O Albion, blame not what thy crime demands,

‘ While this sad truth the blushing Muse betrays;

‘ More often echoes o’er thy harvest-lands,

‘ The voice of riot, than the voice of praise.’)

On these occasions, all the neighbours of both sexes are invited; they meet together on the appointed day, with jovial looks, and drest in their holiday cloaths; every apartment contains as many guests as it will hold; plenty smiles on the board; hospitality gives a hearty welcome; the sparkling liquor flows around; the tale “of other times” is told; it excites the laugh, or draws the tear, as its purport is gay or melancholy. Artificial manners find no intrusion into such assemblies; all is Nature; every respect is paid to age; every attention shewn to youth; delighted and delighting, they survey each other; they form parties, and dance on the green sward, to instrumental, and sometimes to vocal

music.—The return of morning disperses the group, and sends them back to their homes, the happiest, the most contented of human beings.—

- Must I thus leave thee, Paradise! thus leave
- Thee, native soil! these happy walks and shades,
- Fit haunt of Gods!——

Ye sacred abodes of Innocence and Ease, long, oh! very long may ye remain exempt from luxury and vice:—but, like other Nations, you *must* have your course, and, alas! like them, *must rise, must flourish, and must fall.*

But to resume the subject from which I have been insensibly led—

As yet there is not a public building in the County of *Essex*, though the improvements in other respects have been very great. I well remember the person who settled in this quarter of the Country, and whose family was for many years the only one in it. This Gentleman held large possessions, and by his assiduous perseverance in bringing forward the Settlement, li-

terally transformed it from a *howling wilderness*, to a *cultivated garden*. Mr. Page lived to reap the reward of his public spirit, and, while he was of the highest utility to his fellow-citizens, he was enabled at the same time, to bequeath a handsome property to his descendants.

The emigrants who followed Mr. Page into the County of *Essex*, gave him the title of Governor, by which name he was known and acknowledged till his death.

The number of inhabitants do not exceed three thousand. Their religion is *Presbyterianism* and *Episcopacy*.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.
J. A. GRAHAM.

ORLEANS COUNTY.

LETTER

XXV.

MY LORD,

On a noble range of hills, intersected with numberless fertile vallies, lakes, and small rivers, and situated between the Counties of *Essex* and *Franklin*, lies the County of *Orleans*, containing twenty three townships; those on the North side, command the finest views imaginable of lake *Mumpbramagog*, towards the shore of which, the lands of *Derby*, *Holland*, *Salem*, *Coventry*,

Frisburgh, Duncansborough and Woodbridge, descend with romantic grandeur, lake *Mumpha-magog* lies chiefly in the province of lower *Canada*, it has a Northerly direction, and is about forty miles long and from two to three broad. The River *St. Francis* connects it with the River *St. Laurence*, the immense advantages of which to the inhabitants of *Orleans County*, I need not attempt to describe.

Irisburgh is the capital of the County, it was granted to Mr. *Ira Allen*, and takes its name from that Gentleman. *Caldersburgh, Navy, Brownington, Barton and Lutterlock* are the central towns, and lie on the highest part of the territory of *Orleans*. *Glover*, and *Greensborough*, lie on the East side of the County. *Elmore*, and *Morrison* lie on the South side of the River *La Moille*, and are the Southermost towns in the County. *Wolcot, Hidespark, and Craftsborough* lie on the North side of *Onion River*.

Eden, Kellyvale, Westfield and Carthage lie on the West line of the County, and have in com-

mon with the rest of *Orleans* their full share of very excellent land.

The Rivers *La Moille*, and *Michiscoui*, as I have mentioned in a former letter, take their rise amidst the delightful hills, to which they add new beauties, and with the other rivers and lakes with which the districts are watered, render *Orleans* one of the most charming spots in nature.

Twelve months since there was not a single public building in this whole County, but with the Counties of *Franklin*, *Essex* and *Caledonia*, it is to be organized this present year, and the Courts of Judicature are to hold their sessions in the respective capitals of these places as appointed by Law.

In *Derby* lives the family of Mr. *Hinman*, who emigrated from *Southbury*, in *Connecticut*, and who is nearly related to some of the most respectable people in *Litchfield* County.

Kellyvale took its name from Mr. *John Kelly* of *New-York*. This Gentleman (who emigrated from *Ireland* in 1756) has accumulated a large property by speculating in American lands, and as a judge of mankind and a knowledge of the world, has few superiors.

ARTICLE

The value of land in *Orleans* is from three shillings to six pounds an acre. The number of souls are short of two thousand. Their Religion is *Presbyterianism*.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

J. A. GRAHAM.



LETTER

XXVI.

MY LORD,

HAVING given you the general outlines of the state of the eleven Counties of *Vermont*, I think it may not be here improper to communicate to your Grace, an account of its Revenue, and of the Expenditure of the Public Money.

I have never read, or heard of any civilized Kingdom or State, in which the people enjoy the protection of their persons and property, to-

gether with the blessings of good government, at so small an expence as the inhabitants of *Vermont*. Your Grace will, perhaps, be surprized, when I assure you that the total expenditure of this State, exceeds, by a trifle only, the sum of Three Thousand Pounds per annum.

The Revenue arises wholly from the public Taxes: in the year 1791, a list of the taxable Property of the State was made out, which amounted to £324,800. The value at which the improved Lands, and the Cattle, were directed to be estimated, were scarcely one-half of the current prices of those Articles: so that the Taxes did not amount to more than the proportion of about one-half of the real value of the rateable property of the State. From this sum, a small deduction was made, and a tax of *Two-pence Halfpenny* in the pound (nearly about 1 per Cent.) voted on the remainder; by which just and equal method each person pays only in proportion to the property they possess. The fees of the Collector of the Taxes, appointed by Law, is 2 per Cent. and a further abatement of

5 per Cent. made for the benefit of the poor. These abatements being deducted, there remains for the service of Government, but a small fraction above Three Thousand Pounds per annum, which sum, divided among the people, makes the whole burden of Taxation amount to no more than about an annual *Six-Pence Sterling* on each individual.

In the year 1792, the different Items of the Public Expenditure were the following:

	£.	s.	d.
The Governor's Salary —	150	0	0
Lieutenant-Governor's, for attending Council, 15s. per day	511	0	0
Counsellor's fees for the same purpose, 7s. per day —			
Representatives' fees, for attending the General Assembly, 6s. per day —			
Over	£661	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
Forwards	661	0	0
<i>Secretary of State's fees, for the same purpose, 12s. per day</i>			
<i>Secretary of Council's fees, for attending the Council, 9s. per day</i>	685	9	0
<i>Officers attending the General Assembly, Sheriff, Auditor of Accounts, Chaplain, &c. 6s. per day</i>			
<i>Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, while on the Circuit, 27s. per day</i>	1305	6	0
<i>Two Assistant Judges, 22s. per day: orders drawn on the Treasury by the Supreme Court</i>			
<i>Treasurer's Salary</i>	118	0	0
<i>Occasional Expences, orders drawn on the Treasury by the Auditor of Accounts</i>	449	14	9
Total Expence from Oct. 1, 1791, to Oct. 1, 1792.	£3219	9	9

There are other expences which arise almost every year of an occasional or contingent nature : of this kind are those for Commissioners for public purposes; the Council of Censors, Conventions, &c. &c. as these are only for local and particular occasions, the expence varies with the circumstance, and cannot be estimated among the annual Charges of Government.

I have not before informed your Grace that the inhabitants of each Town (that are incorporated) have a right by Law, to meet the first week in March annually, for the purpose of chusing from among themselves the most proper persons, to take upon them the charge of the public business of the Town ; these persons are stiled, and known by the name of *Select Men*, they have many privileges and considerable power. The number is from *two* to *five*, but the latter can never be exceeded. These persons are sworn to the faithful discharge of their duty, as well as the other Officers of the Town, who are appointed and sworn at the same time into their respective situations—such as *Town Clerk*,

Treasurer, Listers, Constables, Sealers of Weights and Measures, Leather Sealer, Surveyors of Highways, &c. &c.

In *Religious Concerns*, the first and most important obligation on man is obedience to his Maker. The peace of our minds depends so essentially on this, as that every man should be left to his full and perfect liberty, and to follow the dictates of his own conscience in all his communications with the Deity.

The inhabitants of *Vermont* have adopted this principle in its fullest extent. Some of them are *Episcopalians*, others are *Congregationalists*; some are of the *Presbyterian*, others of the *Baptist* persuasion; and some are *Unitarians*, while others again are *Friends*, commonly called *Quakers*. As they all, at times, stand in need of each other's assistance in the common concerns of life; so are they all persuaded, that the Government has nothing to do with their particular and distinguishing tenets. It is not barely *toleration*, but *equality* in this respect, which the people

of *Vermont* aim at. Their ideas are, that no one party shall have any power to make laws or forms obligatory on another; that each denomination may lay themselves under what covenants and civil contracts they please; but that Government shall not know any distinction between them: and that all professions shall enjoy equal liberty, without any legal pre-eminence whatever.

Peace, quietness, and prosperity to the State, are the result of this religious freedom of opinion. No man is chosen to, or excluded from, civil offices, on account of his particular religious sentiments. The Clergy of the several denominations have no chance of assuming any power but among their own party. *The people are under no obligation to support any teachers, but what they chuse to lay themselves under, by special contract entered into between the pastor and his flock:—neither can any civil advantages be gained or lost, by belonging to one denomination rather than to another.*

The causes of, and motives to, contention, being thus taken away, there can scarcely remain

any improper circumstance to influence men in their respective opinions. In this *equality* of all parties, religious professions become what they always ought to be—not matters of gain, honour, or civil distinctions; but of sentiment, persuasion, and conscience.

The settlement and support of the Ministers of Religion, has been assisted and encouraged by the Government. The earliest grants of lands in this State, were made by BENNING WENTWORTH, Governor of *New-Hampshire*. This Gentleman was of the communion of the Church of England. In the grants of land that were made by him there were three rights in each township reserved for religious purposes. One to the Society for propagating the Gospel in foreign parts; one for a glebe, designed for the use of an Episcopal Clergy; and a third for the *first settled* Minister, intended for his private property, to encourage the settlement of a Minister in the then new Plantations. In the grants of Townships which have been made by the Government of *Vermont*, two rights have been re-

served for the support of a Clergy: one for a parsonage, designed for the maintenance of a Minister, and unalienable from that purpose; another to become the property, and designed to encourage the settlement of the first Minister. *This right accrues to the first Clergyman who is settled in the Town, of whatsoever profession he may be.* The salary of the Minister ariseth wholly from the special contract entered into between him and the people. These contracts are altogether voluntary: but when made, by a law passed October 18, 1787, are considered as being of equal force and obligation as any other; but no persons of a different denomination are affected by them. The Law has no particular reference to any sects, but considers them all as having a right to make what covenants they please, with the minister of their own choice, and being of course bound, by their own act, to fulfil such covenant.

No embarrassments have attended any of the grants of land, which have been made for religious purposes, but those designed for a glebe;

and those made to the Society for propagating the gospel in foreign parts. In many of the towns there were no Episcopal clergymen, nor any incumbent to take the charge of the glebe lots. The Society have not concerned themselves about the lands which were granted to them. Both these rights have remained unimproved and uncultivated, except where individuals have gained possession of them ; and it has been a great disadvantage to the State, to have such tracts of land lying waste. It has repeatedly been a matter of consideration in the General Assembly, what ought to be done with these lands. Instead of coming to any decision upon the matter, in October 1787, the General Assembly passed an act, authorizing the *Select men* of the several towns, to take care of, and to improve, the glebe and society lands for the space of seven years ; and to apply the incomes to the improvement of the lands, those excepted, which were in the possession of an Episcopal Minister.

This Law had been, for a considerable time, but little attended to ; till at length the Episco-

pal Church applied, by their agent, to the venerable Society, in London, for propagating the gospel in foreign parts, praying the Society to relinquish their rights to those lands in their favour; but the venerable Society declined making any such relinquishment. In the meantime, the General Assembly took upon themselves the right of sequestrating such lands, and appropriating them to the use of Public Schools and Literary Institutions: by which the primary intention of the Grantor (his Majesty's Governor of *New-Hampshire*) was defeated; and by which the Episcopal Church have lost the benefit originally intended for them.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE,

MY LORD,

WITH GREAT CONSIDERATION,

YOUR GRACE'S MOST OBEDIENT

AND MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

JOHN ANDREW GRAHAM.

March 21, 1797,



MUSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

ERRATA.

Page 23, last line, *for settle, read settled.*

144, line 18, *for 1796, read 1795.*

E R R A T A

1. The name of the author is not given.

2. The date of publication is not given.

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